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Gay Community News

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Thomas Eakins' Gay Sensibility

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As usual, gay men and, especially, lesbians were prominent in a march and rally for disarmament held recently in Boston. See the article on page 3.

Cop Brutality Charged In Halloween Incident

By Larry Goldsmith

BOSTON — Police here arrested four men and took one into "protective custody" after a Halloween incident at The Metro, a Landsdowne Street disco catering to a gay crowd on Sundays. Three men have been arraigned on charges of "being a disorderly person" and another faces one count of assault and battery on a police officer.

Several witnesses have reported independently to GCN that police used undue force in making the arrests. Two of the arrested men were seen bleeding after being beaten with nightsticks.

According to official police reports, a man attending The Metro's Halloween party was placed under arrest after spitting on Lawrence Sullivan, a Boston police officer working a paid detail at the club. The report states that the man became violent, kicking Police Officer Daniel Keeler. "At this time," wrote Keeler in the report, "I observed a chemical mace can in suspect's hand . . .

Fearing further harm to myself, I struck the suspect once using the Lamb Method."

A police spokesperson told GCN the Lamb Method is a "defensive technique" involving the use of a nightstick.

The report names three other men arrested for being disorderly and one taken into "protective custody" in the alcohol detoxification unit.

The report offers no detailed account of the incidents, but alleges that a police officer named DiPasquale "received an injury to the right eye."

Charles Maplethorpe, the man

charged with assault, told GCN he and his roommate left The Metro at closing time and stopped outside to take pictures of each other in their Halloween costumes. The two noticed three men leaving the club who appeared to be exchanging words with police as they headed for a taxi. According to Maplethorpe and other witnesses, police followed the men to the cab, opened both rear doors and, using clubs, pulled the men from the cab. Several witnesses reported seeing two of the three clubbed repeatedly about the face and head as police pulled them from the cab.

Continued on page 11

Election Time Again . . .

. . . In Boston

BOSTON — In an election which gave a boost to Democrats all around the country, Massachusetts voters came to the polls in unexpectedly large numbers to strengthen the already heavily Democratic ranks in their state legislature and U.S. Congressional delegation.

United States Senator Edward Kennedy rode easily to a fourth term in Congress, leading his Republican opponent, political newcomer Ray Shamie, by 22 percentage points. Kennedy received more of a share of the vote than observers have speculated would be necessary to mount a successful presidential campaign in 1984. In fact, unofficial figures show that Kennedy received more votes than the Democratic team for Governor and Lt. Governor, Michael Dukakis and John Kerry, who beat Republicans John Sears and Leon Lombardi in a landslide race that was conceded only 40 minutes after the polls closed.

Kennedy is a co-sponsor of gay rights legislation in the U.S. Senate; Dukakis has indicated he would sign a state gay rights bill if it came across the governor's desk.

In a nationally-publicized congressional race between two popular incumbents whose constituencies were merged by redistricting, Democrat Barney Frank beat Republican Margaret Heckler by a landslide 18 percentage points. The race, which many had thought would be extremely close, was viewed nationally as a referendum on Reaganomics. Heckler has been known for her close association with the politics of the current administration, while Frank, a liberal former Massachusetts State Representative with a record of strong support for gay rights legislation, has been one of Ronald Reagan's most outspoken critics.

State Senator Bill Owens lost his seat of eight years to challenger Royal Bolling, Sr., in a race considered highly important to the gay community. Owens, a Republican who was endorsed by the Massachusetts Gay Political Caucus and the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance and has shown substantial support for gay issues, fell victim to the partisan strategies of Bolling, who campaigned against Reaganomics and sought to link Owens to the locally unpopular

policies of the current administration. Bolling's election to the State Senate brings the number of Democrats in that body to a total of 33 out of 40 members.

James Young, the only other Republican endorsed by the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, lost his bid for the Ninth Suffolk Representative's seat vacated by Rep. Mel King. King, who is expected to run for mayor in 1983, endorsed Young's opponent, Byron Rushing, but many in the gay community felt that Rushing had failed adequately to address their concerns.

State Representative Thomas Valley, representing a heavily gay Boston district, won easily over challenger Gil Kaplan. Although Kaplan, a Republican, made strong statements of support on gay issues and promised if elected to hire a liaison to his gay constituency, Valley won the support of the MGPC and BLGPA.

A more complete report on the outcome and significance of the Massachusetts election will appear in next week's issue of GCN.

Larry Goldsmith

. . . Across the Country

Lieutenant Governor Mario Cuomo, the Democratic candidate for governor of New York, has defeated Lewis Lehrman, a millionaire businessman who voiced support for Reaganomics and proposed a 40 percent supply-side tax cut.

Cuomo's margin of three percent was closer than expected, and the state's Republican Party attempted to have voting machines impounded for a recount. But that effort was blocked by a temporary injunction issued by Albany County Justice Leonard Weiss early on November 3 at the request of state Democrats.

In another close gubernatorial race, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley failed to become the nation's first black governor, losing to California Attorney General George Deukmejian. Of 7.3 million votes cast, Deukmejian won by only 53,000. Former Governor Jerry Brown, the Democratic nominee for a vacant senate seat from California, lost to San Diego Mayor Pete Wilson.

Voters in San Francisco have overwhelmingly passed measures

continued on page 2

Judge Dismisses Charges Against *The Body Politic*

By David Morris

TORONTO — A provincial court has dismissed charges of printing obscene material filed last May against *The Body Politic*, Canada's leading lesbian and gay publication, and against the nine members of Pink Triangle Press, the collective that publishes it.

The charges were dismissed on November 2 after a one-day trial by Judge Thomas Mercer, the same judge who had found the paper not guilty of sending obscene material through the mail last June.

The charges filed in May followed a police search of the paper's office, allegedly to determine who had written an article on fist fucking, "Lust With a Very Proper Stranger," published under a pseudonym in April (see GCN, Vol. 9, No. 43).

Judge Mercer accepted an argument by the defense that there was no case against the nine individuals in the collective and dismissed charges against them shortly after

noon. He dismissed charges that afternoon against Pink Triangle Press.

Mercer rejected an argument by the defense that since obscenity is legally defined as "undue exploitation of sex" and since fist fucking does not fall within the dictionary definition of sex, the article could not have been obscene.

Prosecuting attorneys have said they will decide on the basis of Mercer's written decision, which he has not yet issued, whether to appeal the dismissal of charges, an option open to them under Canadian law. They have 30 days after receiving the decision to do so.

An appeals hearing scheduled for January 6 will determine whether *The Body Politic* will be tried a third time on charges of sending obscene material through the mail concerning the publication in 1977 of an article on pedophilia, "Men Loving Boys Loving Men." The paper was acquitted last June in a trial resulting from the Crown's appeal of an earlier acquittal (see GCN,

Vol. 9, No. 48).

Rick Bebout, a member of the collective, pointed out that the judge had taken only one day to reach his decision despite the three-day period set aside for the trial. "We've always said the Crown didn't have a case and I think the judge must have agreed," he told GCN. "It's quite clear he was willing to wrap the whole thing up and make a decision on the very same day. I think after he read the article he decided it was ridiculous for us to be there."

Bebout said there was not enough money in the paper's defense fund to cover the cost of the trial and that even more will be needed for the coming appeals process on the earlier charges. Donations to the Body Politic Free the Press Fund should be sent c/o Box 7289, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1X9. Checks should be made payable to Lynn King in trust for The Body Politic. — filed from Boston

Controversy Develops Over Lesbian S&M Group

By Jil Clark

CAMBRIDGE, MA — In recent years, conflicts over lesbian sadomasochism have raged in feminist communities across the continent. Recently the battle flared up in the Boston feminist community when a newly formed feminist S & M group asked the Cambridge Women's Center for space for their weekly support and discussion group meetings.

In a preliminary vote over the request, only one Women's Center project out of ten voted in favor of providing the space.

Members of the S & M group are on the defensive now, having been

asked to explain in writing how S & M is a feminist issue. One supporter of the S & M group pointed out that none of the women from the center has offered to write about why their opposition to S & M is a feminist stance.

Women from the group are charging that the women at the center are treating them in the same discriminatory manner that straight feminists treated lesbians in the 70s — shunning them for fear that their sexual preference would tarnish the image of the feminist movement.

Lesbians have a right to meet in their women's center and should

expect support from other feminists in their exploration of their sexuality, say S & M dykes and their supporters. "They are allowing their feelings and prejudices about S & M to get involved in their decision," says Rea Rae Sears, a founder of the two-month-old group. "Whether or not they agree is not the issue. The issue is whether a group of feminists interested in exploring their sexuality are going to be allowed to do so at their women's center."

Among the center projects whose members opposed the inclusion of the S & M dykes in the

continued on page 2

News Notes

wiping off the charcoal mark

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Gays here have begun publishing the first newspaper for lesbians and gay men in the country, *The Body Politic* reports. The first issue of *G, gaya hidup cerla*, a typeset, 16-page tabloid written in Indonesian, contains an introduction to the 9-month-old group Lambda Indonesia, a regular column designed to answer queries about homosexuality, fiction, a contact page and news from around the nation and the world.

In an editorial entitled, "Wiping off the Charcoal Mark on Our Forehead," the editor writes, "same-sex love has been given a bad name, which we regard as an injustice. Inspired by traditions of institutionalized homosexuality in Indonesian cultures and by movements in the West, Indonesia's gays and lesbians are trying to remove the stigma imposed unwillingly upon us."

According to G, Amen Budiman, who wrote the country's first book on homosexuality, is writing another on Indonesian gay life. Also, *The Joy of Gay Sex* is currently being translated into Indonesian, despite the fact the *The Joy of Sex*, aimed at heterosexuals, has not yet been made available in that language.

naval judgment

SAN FRANCISCO — National Gay Rights Advocate (NGRA) will appeal the latest in a series of court decisions reaffirming the armed forces' right to exclude lesbians and gay men from military service.

The appeal will be filed in the case of James L. Dronenburg, a nine-year Navy veteran who had received numerous citations for his work but was discharged because he is gay. Judge Oliver Gasch of the U.S. District Court in Washington had accepted the Navy's argument that "the presence of a [gay] member in a military environment seriously impairs combat readiness, efficiency and security" in his October 5 judgment against Dronenburg's lawsuit.

"To discharge a serviceman with this kind of record solely because of his sexual orientation," said NGRA Legal Director Leonard Graff, "is a violation of basic constitutional rights."

Lesbian S&M

Continued from page 1

center were those which deal most frequently with violence against women including the local chapter of Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW), the Rape Crisis Project, and Battered Women's Directory project and Incest Resources.

A representative of WAVAW said that members of that project felt that a discussion group about the relationship between sexuality and power was "okay . . . but it's inappropriate for the center [to provide the S & M dykes' group space] because there are women coming in here who have had *real* violence in their lives."

Another woman, who preferred to be identified only as a member of a center project which focuses on sexual assault, said they were concerned that the sight of "leather jackets and handcuffs and swastikas" would upset the victims of rape or battering who come to the center for counseling. "To many women who are not so-called feminists, a bruise is a bruise," she said.

Betsy Warrior, a long-time feminist activist and an author of the Battered Women's Directory, is adamantly opposed to allowing the feminist S & M group to meet at the center.

"Sadomasochism is inimical to the society we [feminists] are trying to create — especially when it comes to battered women who've been handed a whole myth about being masochistic. I think sadism and masochism is the epitome of the problem with human relationships, whether it's in the way that one sex treats another or the way one race treats another."

Other women expressed concern that if the group met at the center, women inquiring about the center would assume that the center condones S & M and they would stay away.

Project representatives reported that many of their members were undecided, caught in a conflict between wanting the feminists in the S & M group to feel safe to explore their sexuality and exchange information about safety, and on

the other hand wanting other women who visit the center to feel comfortable there, too.

A representative from the Women's Pentagon Action (WPA) voted in favor of giving the S & M feminists a weekly meeting place for support and discussion because, she said, "We feel strongly that a lesbian group should be able to meet here."

However, as WPA member Jessica Shubow explained to *GCN* following the meeting, the group "isn't taking a stand in favor of something as emotionally wrenching as S & M. We simply are not ready to advocate censorship in this instance. We took a stand against the KKK, but there's too much ignorance around this issue to do the same."

Shubow continued, "It would be hard for the Women's Pentagon Action to sanction a practice of domination, with all the accompanying racist implications, the idea that slaves are happy being subservient to their masters. But it is different if you are going to be *talking* about it. We hope that [by our vote in favor of housing the S & M meetings] we are promoting self-determination within an egalitarian and healthy context."

Many project representatives and center staffers said they did not understand the connection between S & M and feminism and asked representatives of the S & M group to write a statement of purpose explaining how the group's discussions and activities are feminist.

Judy Norris, a staff member, later commented to *GCN*, "I can see how a discussion of sex in general would be political, but not one specifically about sex toys."

After the meeting, Sears said that she was tired of being asked to show her feminist credentials, "and I'm sick of having to justify what I do in bed."

Nevertheless, the S & M women are writing a statement which will be circulated to all the projects. It is hoped that the information in the statement will be enough to help women who were undecided to make up their minds so that a

amazon autumn VI

UNION, NJ — The sixth annual New Jersey Lesbian Feminist Fall Festival will be held on November 27.

Films, entertainment and other cultural activities reflecting various aspects of lesbian feminism are planned for the day. Workshops will cover such topics as employment, health, literature and spirituality.

The conference will be held in barrier-free buildings at the Livingston campus of Rutgers University. Differently abled women should contact the organizers at Amazon Autumn, P.O. Box 2104, Union, NJ 07083 or call (201) 797-7051, (201) 567-7509 or (609) 921-0837.

Registration is \$9.00 in advance, \$12 at the door, and included all day and evening activities.

case dismissed

BOSTON — Charges against the second defendant in the Club International "male prostitution ring" case have been dropped after evidence for the prosecution seized illegally by Boston police was ordered suppressed (see *GCN*, Vol. 10, No. 16).

Boston Municipal Court Judge Charles Grabau accepted a motion by the Suffolk County District Attorney's office on October 29 to dismiss pornography and prostitution-related charges lodged against Robert Noel. Judge Grabau had earlier ruled that a search warrant used by Boston police to carry out a televised raid of Noel's apartment was illegally executed because arresting officers broke down the door before knocking.

"I sure feel pretty good now that the charges are dismissed," Noel told *GCN*.

What began with sensational reports in the Boston media of a large-scale "international male prostitution ring" has ended with dismissal of all charges against four of the five persons originally arrested. The fifth, Canadian Robert Slee, now awaits sentencing in Vermont on a federal charge of conspiracy to transport a minor interstate for purposes of prostitution.

ice palace under fire

NEW YORK — The four members of the local chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT/NY) who filed charges of racial discrimination against the Ice Palace disco last January have been granted a hearing with the New York State Division of Human Rights.

At the November 22 hearing, an administrative law judge will make a recommendation to the commissioner. A preliminary investigation conducted by the division found probable cause last May.

"We are confident that our complainants will be successful, and BWMT/NY will again demonstrate that racism will not be tolerated," said the editor of the chapter's newsletter.

Anyone interested in attending the hearing should contact Mitchell Karp at (212) 255-9372, James Credle at (201) 481-2876, Henry Wiemhoff at (212) 799-9432 or Lidell Jackson at (212) 222-9794.

mass arrest of gays

ASUNCION, Paraguay — A massive roundup of gay men was executed by police in this capital city last April, according to *The Body Politic*.

Over 200 people were arrested and detained for five to 15 days under the pretext that they were suspected of involvement in the kidnapping and murder of the son of a local businessman.

During interrogation, many prisoners were beaten severely and forced to disclose the identities of other gays, who were in turn arrested. According to one Frenchman, prisoners were locked in 15 by 20 foot cells with more than 50 others.

The news that the wave of arrests was aimed largely at gay men traveled quickly through the community, so that many would-be victims escaped unharmed across the nearby Argentinian border.

Reports of atrocities committed against indigenous people and political prisoners flow in a steady stream out of Paraguay, which has one of the worst human rights records on that continent.

News Notes compiled this week by Jill Clark.

we are against any form of social hierarchy based on sexual preference."

Jude Van Dyke, a former S & M organizer in Toronto, told *GCN* that contrary to what some feminists at the Women Center believe, S & M sex is very egalitarian and both the sadist and the masochist must be "very strong" and "knowledgeable about what they are doing."

"The difference is consent," she continued. "We have taken what we have learned as women being submissive in a heterosexual context and chosen to turn it around. We understand how the

power [imbalance in heterosexual relationships] works and we are able to take what we want out of that."

Customarily, the Women's Center makes decisions by consensus. Sears said she will press for rule by majority in this case, since she does not believe this women's community "or any other for that matter" will ever agree on the issue of S & M. (The S & M dyke group is holding a special meeting which will be open to lesbians who are not sadomasochists but who are supportive of them Tuesday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. at 186 Hampshire Street in Cambridge.)

Votes

Continued from page 1

to create a civilian review board for the Police Department and to give police overtime pay but have disapproved a third measure granting retirement benefits to new officers equal to those of more seasoned cops.

The three measures, Propositions A, I and J, became the subject of controversy when gay supervisor Harry Britt made a deal with the Police Officers Association by which Britt would deliver gay votes for Propositions I and J and the POA, in turn, would refrain from opposing Proposition A. Britt had claimed at a press conference that lesbian and gay activists and members of other minorities supported the arrangement but activists denied they were party to the deal.

Proposition A, creating a civilian review board for the police, passed with over 60 percent of the vote; Proposition J, giving police overtime pay, garnered some 55 percent; Proposition I, expanding the police retirement benefit program, was supported by little more than 40 percent of the voters.

In elections to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, gay activist Greg Day, with two percent of the vote, lost his bid to become a second gay voice on the board. Sister Boom-Boom, "Nun of the

Above" of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, received about three percent of the vote.

Democrat Phillip Burton was overwhelmingly re-elected to his seat in the **Fifth Congressional District**. His liberal Republican opponent, Milton Marks, had received some gay support because of his pro-gay record as a state senator but had also been supported by ultra-conservatives determined to rid the House of Burton.

Democratic Representative Ron Dellums of the **East Bay's Eighth District** was re-elected by a narrow margin despite a concerted effort by the new right to unseat him.

In **Berkeley**, voters approved by a wide margin Measure T, which prohibits the use of electro-shock treatment within the city limits. The measure, the first of its kind passed anywhere in the country, was opposed by the American Psychiatric Association, which supplied \$10,000 of the \$15,000 spent to campaign against it. Proponents spent some \$2,000 in their campaign.

The left-liberal Berkeley Citizens Action made a strong showing in the city council race, but failed to alter their four-to-five minority position. They were strongly supported by the recently formed East Bay Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club.

Fags, Dykes, Disarmament: Hanging in There

By Amanda Powell

BOSTON — Why might lesbians and gay men feel especially threatened by this country's increasingly militaristic approaches to world affairs and why do more and more lesbians and gays feel called upon to join forces with a disarmament movement that often does not directly address gay issues? A march on Sunday, Oct. 24 from Blackstone Park in the South End and concluding with a demonstration on the Boston Common implicitly posed these questions. One speaker, and several organizers addressed them explicitly.

The Central American Solidarity Association (CASA) co-sponsored the rally with a wide variety of peace, anti-interventionist and civil rights groups, including Mobilization for Survival, the Boston Peace Council, Comite Centroamericano, Massachusetts Trade Union League and CityLife. CASA described the demonstration both as a protest against US involvement in Central America, South Africa and the Middle East and as a call for nuclear disarmament and the transfer of funds from military spending to human needs.

In clear but cold weather, about 400 people gathered — and most stayed — to hear speakers as di-

verse as State Representative Sandra Graham, Democratic Revolutionary Front of El Salvador Representative Guadalupe Gonzalez and UN Representative from the African National Congress, John Makatini. Several entertainers performed, including the student gospel group of Paige Academy, a grade school in Roxbury. The witty "Girillillas," a six-woman musical and political satire ensemble, did a piece based on an article in the *National Enquirer* quoting El Salvador's Minister of Tourism on the anticipated boom in that country's tourist industry: "People went to Germany to see the bombed cathedrals . . . to Spain to see Franco's Monument to the Fallen" and will surely flock to see El Salvador's war ruins.

Peggy Lynch, a CASA member and organizer for the event, reflected on the ties between the lesbian and gay movement and the anti-militarist effort, in their common cause against patriarchy, anti-feminism and sex roles. "Anti-imperialism and personal liberation may seem difficult to connect on face value; yet they feel connected to me, though it is often hard to explain this satisfactorily to other gay people," she said. The US government's need to maintain a presence in Central America and



Ellen Shub

South Africa is related to its need to intervene in our lives: "Our liberation is connected to their liberation." Lynch said she feels this as a lesbian and as a feminist: "We have a common enemy, not just US foreign policy or the Reagan government, but an entire way of life. When Holly Near says we must 'challenge the nuclear

mentality,' this means challenging the nuclear family mentality, the sexist mentality, the militaristic mentality. . . all of which dovetail at some point in our personal, as well as our political history."

Lynch pointed out that while the platform of the march and demonstration presented no specifically feminist or gay demands, "an enormous number of the event's organizers and members in the sponsoring groups were gay, "and especially lesbians." The initial impetus for the demonstration arose from disarmament and anti-intervention groups wanting to push the United Nations, on the date commemorating its founding, on the disarmament issue. Additionally, nation-wide activities were planned during the week to protest US involvement in El Salvador and Central America.

Many members of the resulting coalition felt, according to Lynch, that "after about four demands you have a laundry-list politics that lose focus. But that isn't the only reason why feminism isn't more specifically addressed. We hoped to develop a feminist perspective throughout the content of the program, presenting information in an integrated way, as feminists who are addressing other issues."

The coalition achieved such basic goals as parity between male and female speakers. Each speaker established connections between local and international freedom movements and between the

Reagan administration's assault on all but the wealthy in this country and corresponding military interventionism abroad. Guadalupe Gonzalez, of El Salvador's Democratic Revolutionary Front, cited the links between the US disarmament movement and non-intervention worldwide, pointing out that in non-aligned nations, the struggle for peace cannot be separated from the implementation of basic human rights, such as self-determination. Leslie Cagan, introduced as a lesbian-socialist-feminist national facilitator for Mobilization for Survival, stressed that challenging militarism involves a personal confrontation with "core individual feelings that some people are just better than others . . . with hierarchies of control and levels of domination." She called on activists to expand the concept of "disarmament" to oppose intervention and militarism in all forms.

Looked at in this light, the question shifts: Why aren't even more lesbian and gay people helping to expand the disarmament movement, bringing to it our special knowledge of the meanings of government, and societal interference in private and public life? As the Girillillas requested — linking dangerous weapons to oppressive social structures — "Please Freeze the Nuclear Family." Many of us are in a unique position to understand that plea.

Boy Love Controversy Erupts at Gay Conference

By James Jackson

TERRE HAUTE, IN — Widespread controversy surrounded Indiana's October 1 through 3 regional lesbian and gay conference, Guidepost: '82, which featured keynote speakers from the North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA), San Francisco's International Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee and Philadelphia's leftist periodical *Gay Insurgent*.

Spearheaded by feminists and gay activists opposing NAMBLA's affiliation with the gay community, an informal boycott of the conference severed inter-community working links here and directly sparked the publication of front-page anti-gay articles in this state's chief newspaper, the *Indianapolis Star*.

"How many Anita Bryants are going to grab your organization's standards and beat the gay community to death with them?" was the cry of one outraged gay man during a shouting match with NAMBLA founder and spokesperson Tom Reeves.

Similar cries were echoed by other lesbian and gay community leaders as serious concern arose over the "potential for bad press from the straight media" resulting from Reeves' appearance. As one Indianapolis bar owner and community leader, Mary Byrne, commented, "While we gay Hoosiers have been so painstakingly diligent to show our everydayness and our normalness, something like man-boy love just smacks of sex . . . and [to openly discuss it] is a dangerous strategy."

Such criticism throughout Indiana's lesbian and gay community has grown more common in response to recent events. The October 3 murder, for example, of a 14-year-old Indianapolis youth after a gay sex act ignited an election-time investigation in which gay people were targeted by the local press and police in this state's latest anti-gay tirade. This followed a recent municipal court ruling that male homosexual pornography is obscene while heterosexual pornography is not, as well as the inception of video surveillance procedures in Indianapolis' "gay zone." In addition, a series

of police raids on bars and parks has resulted in many dozens of arrests coupled with beatings, hospitalizations and a wave of other forms of violence.

"Understandably, a lot of lesbians and gays around Indiana are getting really paranoid," said Michael Stotler, president of Guidepost's sponsor organization, the Gays, Lesbians and Friends of Terre Haute. Stotler notes that in the six weeks since the conference was held in this blue-collar city of 30,000, local police have raided and harassed patrons of Terre Haute's only gay bar as many as 20 times, including an alleged beating by two officers resulting in serious injuries and later hospitalization of the victims.

"With all of this we were very afraid to hold the conference," Stotler recalled, "even after planning it for a year."

Keynote speakers at the Guidepost: '82 included Tom Reeves, a founder and outgoing spokesperson of NAMBLA; Greg Day, a founder and co-chair of the Freedom Day Committee in San Francisco; and Daniel Tsang, an author and editor of *Gay Insurgent* and the first non-white keynote speaker to attend an Indiana gay and lesbian conference in the state's history.

Amid accusations of "exploitation," Reeves recounted his arrest last February on charges of "indecent assault and battery on a minor under the age of 16 years." Police searched his home and confiscated Reeves' diaries from the last three decades, photographs and other personal possessions. He was eventually released from the charges.

He emphasized, however, that most — more than 95 percent — of men charged with the statutory rape of boys are convicted, sometimes receiving jail sentences longer than those given to parents who have murdered their children.

In response to a statement made by an Indianapolis activist who felt that lesbians should have joined forces with the Moral Majority to picket Tom Reeves' appearance, conference organizer John Feeney points out that such attitudes "are the clearest illustration that there are lesbians and gay men who,

while claiming to be fighting for lesbian and gay civil rights, accept and promote and target their own kind with the venomous prejudices of the new right.

"We must put the whole of our lives," Reeves summarized, "into affirming that which is good and positive and loving and kind and affectionate, and that's what sex is. And we must put the whole of our lives into protecting everybody, including ourselves, from violence and aggression and exploitation. And that very definitely includes children."

San Francisco activist Greg Day later addressed the conference, explaining the incidents of activism leading up to the July 16 national injunction banning anti-gay immigration policies on the book since the McCarthy era, as well as his own involvement as plaintiff and as co-chair of the

continued on page 11

Harvard Student Body Gains Gay President

By Larry Goldsmith

CAMBRIDGE, MA — The Harvard University Undergraduate Council has elected an openly gay student as its first chairperson.

Michael Colantuono, a senior with a record of involvement in both student government and the Harvard Radcliffe Gay Student Association (HRGSA), was chosen by the newly-formed 89-member council at a three and one-half hour meeting on October 24. The council took five ballots to select Colantuono from a field of seven candidates.

Members of the Undergraduate Council are elected from the student body in districts defined by student residences. The council is authorized by the Harvard administration to collect student fees for its \$60,000 yearly budget.

In 1969, Harvard's representative student government was dissolved, according to Colantuono, after student protests. Since that time, the college has existed without an officially-san-

tioned student government. Recently, the Student Assembly, a non-recognized body, called upon the university to perform a comprehensive re-evaluation of student government at the undergraduate college. As a result, the new 89-member Undergraduate Council was formed. The council elects its own officers and chooses members to serve on student/faculty committees dealing with academic affairs, residential issues and college life.

Colantuono told *GCN* that at one point in his campaign, several council members wondered openly if a gay chairperson would project an appropriate image for the college.

"I believe this council will be projecting an appropriate image if it sees its choice of officers based upon relevant criteria and not upon irrelevant personal factors," Colantuono said. "The [Harvard Daily] *Crimson* always identifies me as a gay activist and I am, but my politics go beyond that. . . My

politics were a big part of my campaign and that's why I won."

Colantuono, a past secretary of the HRGSA, has been active in efforts to persuade the 346-year-old college to adopt a non-discrimination policy and to permit the inclusion of HRGSA literature in admissions packets for entering students.

Correction

The Caption under a photograph accompanying the article in *GCN*, Vol. 10, No. 15 about the demonstration protesting the police attack on Blue's quotes Rev. Renee McCoy. The woman in the photograph is actually Magara Kennedy, a member of the congregation of the Harlem Metropolitan Community Church.

We regret the error.

Community Voices

asking my race

Dear *GCN*,

I just arrived back from court and found all of my copies of *GCN* intact waiting for me, and I have good news. I got my case reversed and was given a shorter sentence in return for a guilty plea ("plea bargaining") which I didn't want to give, but after being confined since 1980 I am ready to begin living again. I could have beat the case, but you must have money to win.

I also had you run an ad for me, but any responses to it may have been returned or destroyed because our mail is not forwarded or kept while we are away in another place at trial. I would appreciate it if you would run another ad for me. Please state my race (black) this time so I won't get letters asking my race and when I tell them they don't write back which makes me feel worse than if I hadn't gotten any.

Words can't say or describe the feeling and uplifting your paper gives. Thanks from all of us gay residents in Jackson.

Henry Motley
128606
Box E
Jackson, MI 49204

don't knock kids

Dear *GCN*,

I want to pitch a bitch about the way R.E. Pipher of Stroudsburg, PA, puts down Randy Shilts in your Community Voices column of Sept. 25 ("fortuitous circumstances").

I'm not a big fan of Randy Shilts, but it bothers me that Pipher compares Shilts' letter of July 10 to "a tantrum, equivalent to a child throwing himself on the floor, flailing his arms and legs, and screaming until he's red in the face because things do not go his way. It is hardly appropriate to an adult author and journalist."

Children throw tantrums because we grown-ups regularly ignore or discount their requests and feelings when they state them politely. They often have to use every means at their disposal just to get our attention, and then we ridicule or punish "childish behavior." Grown men throw tantrums, fists, and beer bottles at much less provocation. Pipher's attitude toward young people must be pretty lousy if the worst thing he can say about Shilts is that he acts like a child.

Later on, Pipher says, "Some people at the age of 30 (Mr. Shilts' age) can be very young. In calling the staff of *GCN* 'kids,' I think Shilts was misapplying the word. He should have applied 'kid' to himself. He's just a kid who's had some good luck, and it's inflated his ego a little bit . . ." I can't tell from that if Shilts called the *GCN* staff "kids" just to be chummy, or if he actually meant that he was older and therefore wiser. But arrogance is a trait more common to adults than children. The way many adults bully and insult young people, it's a miracle that we grow up with any self-esteem left at all.

Pipher ends by telling us that he or she is a school teacher. I should have known. Why is it that people with the most disparaging attitudes toward young people gravitate to the professions where they have to deal with them? You'd think they'd have the sense to go into computer programming or something. Or, that if they entered teaching (child psychology, pediatric nursing, etc.) to work with the idealized cute li'l kid, and soured when all they found were flesh and blood children, they'd get another job. But they like power. Children are the easiest people in society to dominate. Pennsylvania is one of the states which allows spanking in schools.

The world would be a better place if adults acted more like children (i.e., less like pompous asses), and treated children with the respect we normally give to adults. When we say that someone we disagree with acts "like a child," we insult children more than we do our antagonist.

In struggle,
Laura Hathaway
Chicago, IL

not a mirror

Dear All,

A comment on Gay men's porno (hetero porno is another story which I won't comment upon. What DO they do in bed anyway?):

Gay men's porn in questioned because the men always are a) extremely "well built," b) have big dicks, c) do not represent the majority of men, d) all of the above, etc.

Now, there may be reasons to criticize porn (especially, I feel, the lack of people of color), but big organs is not one of them. Let me explain why.

If you're with a live person, you can share that person's caresses, fragrances, tastes, sights and groans, as well as the visual sensation.

However, when it's just you and some porno pix spending the afternoon together, the porno's visual quality (being the *only* sensation available) must be enhanced so that you'll get turned on, which is what porno is for.

Porno is not meant to mirror reality or to be a social critique. It resides in the realm of fantasy and imagination.

Love ya,
sayta
Oakland, CA

thinking/acting

Dear *GCN* and readers,

The views expressed in Stella Strega's letter in your Oct. 2 issue are rather typical of anti-pornography feminists. To most people pornography means sexually oriented media. The way in which anti-porn feminists use the term is very confused. Pornography is basically a sexual fantasy aid. Fantasy, *in itself*, cannot be bad. What makes a difference is what we do with our fantasies. If our society were not so closely about sex and sexual pleasure, we would early on in life learn positive ways to realize our sexual nature, including masturbation, fantasy and relating to others consensually. We would learn that any fantasy is okay as a fantasy; that there is a separation between fantasy and physical reality; that the ability to fantasize *can* be used to think of ways to move and change in reality but that fantasy can be enjoyed for its own sake.

The idea that playing with rape fantasies or SM fantasies is the same as acting out that fantasy on an unwilling person is curiously akin to something the Catholic Church used to teach to helpless and gullible little Catholic children (and maybe still does, I don't know). This Catholic notion was that even *thinking* of doing a "sinful" act (there were lots of them) was in itself a sin, though not quite as terrible a sin as actually doing it. As a result, millions of Catholic children, and adults, have been plagued with surplus guilt over stray thoughts, natural curiosity, and obsessional thinking.

Pornography does not create the exploitation of women. It does reflect the exploitation of women both in its stories and in its labor practices. What about all the exploitation of women in non-sexual media — like pulp romances, gothic novels, detective novels, and horror stories? What *really* gets across in the rhetoric and actions of anti-pornography feminists is *anti-sex*, not anti-sexism and anti-violence.

Censorship may not be the aim of anti-pornography feminists, though I don't always believe that claim. Regardless of intent, the effect is that the feminist anti-porn movement functions as an active part of the sexual oppressiveness of our society. Whether pornography, or erotica, is legal or illegal certainly *is* a crucial issue. Only a far more liberated legal climate than what now exists will truly encourage the publishing of erotica/porn that embodies more humanity and variety and quality writing. Of course, some folks may still want materials in the old style. Sexy stories are, after all, read primarily to induce/enhance orgasmic pleasure, not for literary criticism.

Attacks on sexual fetishism are very strange to me. *Anything* that sexually arouses a person, e.g., a scent, object, action, phrase, etc., might rightfully be called a sexual fetish. Of course, the dominant culture calls its favorite sexuality "normal" and calls everything else a fetish or a "perver-

sion." Enforced social conformity to a fetish that one does not share is the problem. Women *have* been subjected to *more* forcible fetishization than men, but what about facial shaving, prescribed acceptable hair length, the cleanliness fetish, the anti-body-odor fetish, and circumcision of helpless infant males? It seems that every culture forces certain acts on its members. All we can do is try to secure as much freedom as possible.

Finally, it is *simply not true* that anti-porn feminists have been censored! Least of all by pro-porn feminists! Anti-porn feminists have *far* more access to the feminist media, plus greater influence on *both* the dominant culture media and the alternative culture media, than feminists who are pro-pornography. We who are pro-pornography are just as concerned about violence against women as are anti-porn women. We also have experienced violence from men. I know I have. We just do not share the particular analysis of violence against women that the anti-pornography feminists have.

I think that the feminist anti-porn movement has made two terrible mistakes in their analysis: 1. Their sloppy and circular redefinitions of pornography and violence in terms of each other. 2. Their lack of concern over male-male violence and state violence. Violence against women will not be greatly reduced or stopped unless something is done to stop other violence. It's all part of the same system, or, you might say, context. Janet Schrim
Oakland, CA

illness & guilt

To *GCN* Letters:

We welcome Dr. Larry Mass's letter (*GCN*, 10/22/82) as the start of a valuable public debate about the gay community's proper response to the illnesses among us. In his writings to date he had contributed a great deal of useful medical information, but little about his political assumptions which would affect his approach to that information. We hope that in the near future he will explore what it means to him to number himself among those "who continue to earnestly believe in sex revolutionary ideals" and among those who are "deeply worried about erotophobia."

Dr. Mass's attempt to assimilate Michael Bronski's article into the "epidemic" coverage of the *Advocate*, *Christopher Street* and the New York *Native* doesn't, however, wash. Bronski is critical of the links between illness and guilt that gay leaders and writers have forged; this has not been a notable feature of the coverage in those media. The *Native*, indeed, recently bannered the headline, "Promiscuity is bad for your health": a

Continued on page 5

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If we are on your mailing list, please update us to this address.

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Speaking Out

The Real Dan Bradley?

By Michael J. Piore

A great deal of excitement has been generated in the gay community by the coming out of Dan Bradley, former head of the Legal Services Corporation, and the subsequent articles about him first in the *New York Times* and then in *Harper's Magazine*. I therefore read the *Harper's* piece with considerable anticipation. I was surprised to find that it left me feeling empty and depressed. It has taken me time to figure out why. My reaction is rooted in my own personal set of political values, ones which I know are not universally shared among gay men. But I think that enough of them are shared to raise serious questions about how welcome Mr. Bradley's coming out should be; about the kind of public attention it has received; and about its long-range implications for human rights.

The *Harper's* version of Bradley's coming out is a story about a conflict between a man's career and his pursuit of sexual pleasure, a story in which the latter ultimately wins out. As such stories go, it is not very interesting. The man's sexual pleasure is not described in any explicit detail, so the story is devoid of prurient interest. There really isn't enough detail about his career to make that interesting either. The personality sketched out in the article is so shallow that one hesitates to call what is at stake anything so fundamental as an identity. And there is not enough of a physical description of the man to sustain a good masturbation fantasy. The story does have one redeeming value, at least in terms of the current politically correct standards for judging gay stories in the straight media; it has a happy ending. Bradley's pursuit of sexual pleasure does not seem to have cost him all that much in terms of his career after all, indeed quite the contrary. That, and the fact that it gives visibility to gay men in the *New York Times* and *Harper's* would, I suppose, be enough to view the affair as a positive if somewhat boring episode in our national coming out, except for one thing. Mr. Bradley's career is politics.

Now, I believe that politics is about really fundamental issues, about how society is constructed, about freedom and oppression, power and subordination, wealth, poverty, exploitation and things like that. I believe that gays share a special interest in this kind of politics because we are oppressed. I also believe that the feeling of oppression should lead us to understand and sympathize with other oppressed social groups, and that what we ought to be about in politics is attempting to recast society so as to relieve that oppression from all men and women who suffer under its impact. The only piece of this view I ever thought was really controversial, at least among gays, was the last point. I suppose one could argue that we should be interested only in alleviating our own oppression. That position strikes me as morally wrong, and I am quite sure that it is strategically disastrous. History suggests that social oppression expands and contracts pretty much as a whole, and if one or another group manages to escape the general trend, it is seldom for long and virtually never gays. The fact that Mr. Bradley was director of Legal Services led me to believe that that was basically his view of politics, too. But it is definitely not the view ascribed to Mr. Bradley, or to the "numerous" other (closeted) gay politicians referred to in the article. In *Harper's*, politics is just a bunch of rather selfish men pursuing their own careers. When those men happen to be gay, that pursuit presents them with a rather agonizing trade-off between career success and sex. Even sexual identity, as something a little more profoundly touching one's basic condition as a human being, does not seem to be at stake.

This view is made manifest in the article by the treatment of the right wing. Considerable space is devoted to the closeted gay politicians who have been at the forefront of the Moral Majority's campaign of homophobia. These men are represented as opportunists and are castigated accordingly. Some names are actually named, and the rest are threatened with disclosure in quotes from gay activists who are collecting affidavits from their tricks. The partisan will want to see these people as sharply contrasted to Bradley and the other men on the left. But the way the article is constructed, the actual contrast is drawn within the right wing itself by a portrait of a man who was fired from his job on a conservative newsletter. He was fired because of a telephone conversation in which he was overheard telling his lover, who was calling from the hospital where he was dying of cancer, that he loved him. The man views the telephone conversation fatalistically, an extension of self rather than an act of choice. But he does regret the job he lost because he believes in less social spending and greater military preparedness. One may wonder about the substance of this man's politics, but the integrity of his politics, and of his person, emerge as complete. In the opposition which this sets up between two polar ways of being gay in a hostile Washington environment, all the other politicians discussed in the piece fall with the Moral Majority. They emerge as less blatant perhaps, but not much less opportunistic.

The pro-gay-rights legislators are also pictured as abandoning their position and voting against a bill whenever the political climate becomes too threatening. One is forced to conclude that the only difference between them and the right is the nature of their constituencies, something over which the article seems to suggest they have no real choice. We are never told why Mr. Bradley chose a career in legal services for the poor and are thus led to imagine that it was just what happened to be available as a political career in the 1960s when he was making his "career choice." Anyway, Legal Services is pictured as exactly equivalent in terms of moral and political value to the Florida Commissioner of racing and pari-mutual betting, a job which Mr. Bradley also held for a period of time. The job which Bradley sacrificed in order to come out turns out not to be head of Legal Services at all (he was already leaving that) but the president of Hialeah Race Track. One of the things which he is reported to have found most amusing about his pre-*Harper's* double life was that while he was fighting the Mafia at the track he was patronizing their bars at night. He is also reported to have found this quite disturbing but only because he feared that the Mafia might catch him at it.

For all I know, the man in the *Harper's* article has nothing to do with the real Dan Bradley, in which case the story calls into question the value of coming out publicly in the straight press. But, if the *Harper's* man is indeed Bradley, I hope we have not heard the end of his story. Politics is about the construction of society, about power and subordination, freedom and oppression. To understand politics in narrow careerist terms is to obscure that fact and to strengthen existing systems of authority and control. The happy ending for the Bradley story in *Harper's* is a new career as advisor on gay politics to the contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination. If that is what gay power means in national politics today, it may be personal liberation for Bradley and his fellow gay politicians in the closets of Washington, but it is surely just a new cover for the oppression of the rest of us.

Community Voices

Continued from page 4

maxim that even Dr. Mass's cited guideline cannot support.

We need to look more closely at that guideline: "Although we don't yet know all the ways AIDS can be acquired," it reads, "an individual's chances of developing AIDS increase with the number of different sexual partners."

"Promiscuity is bad for your health" is a flat maxim that does not consider the element of risk. It is just this element of risk that we all need to know more about. Although the guideline is wiser than the *Native* headline, we find the guideline itself misleading because it does not address the risk factor. Gay men are quite accustomed to accepting various risks of contracting STDs, and to weighing them carefully against the pleasure and nourishment we gain from multiple sexual partners.

As to Dr. Mass's criticism of *GCN* for not carrying a feature article earlier, let us suggest that most of the feature articles in the media he lists, at least in the contexts of their presentation, have done more harm than help to the gay public's understanding of AIDS. Hasty analysis is not necessarily good analysis. We are glad *GCN* waited for Bronski to think it through, and hope Dr. Mass and his colleagues will participate fully in the oncoming debate. More than anything else right now, we need a vigorous debate to clarify these issues of illness, guilt and erotophobia.

One final note. In Gordon Murray's article accompanying Bronski's he said that the rate of reported AIDS cases, over 2 a day in mid-1982, rose for the week of September 3 to an "alarming 4.4 cases per day." We are unable to verify this figure. While it is certainly possible that a large number of cases happen to have been reported in that particular week, there was, in the two months ending 21 October, no alarming rise — according to figures we were given by CDC Atlanta. According to those figures, between 19 August and 21 October there was an average of 2.2 total AIDS cases reported per day. Of these only 1.7 cases per day were in gay or bisexual men.

A slow, steady rise is distressing, but not an occasion for alarm or panic. As Dr. James Curran of CDC says, "It is not an explosive issue like influenza."

Yours truly,
Michael Lynch
Bill Lewis
Toronto, Canada

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caring dialogue

To the Editor:

In my letter to *GCN* of last week concerning the endorsements of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (BLGPA) I expressed concern about the endorsement procedure as well as substantive problems about two of the endorsements that were made. In voicing my doubts about the procedure that was followed, I speculated that the flier announcing BLGPA's endorsements that appeared in the *GCN* following Candidate's Night on October 20 had in fact been printed in advance of the Candidate's Night.

Subsequent to the publication of my letter, Eric Rofes wrote to me amply demonstrating that my speculation about the flier was entirely incorrect and that the endorsements of the BLGPA were printed up after the Candidate's Night on Wednesday, October 20, 1982. I apologize for any adverse inferences about BLGPA which were drawn from this speculation on my part. My conjecture was based on a conversation that I had with a member of the Steering Committee on the day after Candidate's Night in which I was told that the endorsement of Representative Vallyely had been a foregone conclusion long before the Candidate's Night, although this account of events is vigorously disputed by other members of the Committee and I, of course, wasn't there.

My letter was written out of a desire to be supportive of the work of BLGPA which I believe to be important, while at the same time expressing very, very serious problems about the endorsement of Rep. Vallyely, who refuses to appoint a gay liaison, and Senator LoPresti, who advocates the death penalty. I hope that these concerns will be seriously addressed by the BLGPA, and that my letter will not be dismissed as an attempt to attack that organization, which deserves credit for its work and which has, moreover, been gracious enough to offer me an award for community service. Thirteen years after Stonewall, I for one am ready to drop the obsessive infighting that is our legacy from straight society and to enter into a respectful and caring dialogue with anyone who sincerely wants to listen.

Very truly yours,
John P. Ward
Boston, MA

girls, iq's, garbage "men"

Dear *GCN*,

The women planning the sperm bank at the Feminist Women's Health Center (*GCN*, 30 October 1982) are to be commended for many things, but consistency is not one of them.

As an evolutionary biologist, I'm willing to

predict on theoretical grounds alone that in the standard course of events the people in control of the system of artificial insemination will choose "their own" as inseminators. So in most cases, where the system is controlled by doctors, they choose — surprise! — medical students and interns to donate the sperm. The FWHC is to be commended for pointing out this conflict of interest, and for avoiding it.

But their "improvement" on this bogus system is inconsistent, and it puzzles me. Barbara Raboy, speaking for the FWHC, was quoted as saying that "We don't think that the sperm of a garbage man is qualitatively different from the sperm of a doctor, so we are not going to" restrict donors to the medical profession. Fine. And the donor catalog will list the donor's occupation and educational background, so women being inseminated will, presumably, have the right to override the FWHC's opinion about doctors and garbage men if they want to. Fine; a woman has a right to choose.

But they are not going to "pay attention to information about I.Q. If you believe that that has a lot more to do with opportunity and environment than genetic origin, it's irrelevant" — and so I.Q. will not be listed in the donor catalog. But doesn't a woman have the right to choose on that basis, too, if she wants to? Indeed, rightly or wrongly, I.Q. correlates with occupation and education; if they really are going to deny women the right to choose a father on the basis of I.Q., they ought to omit occupation and education information, too.

But there is another issue that worries me even more. A spokesperson said that women who want to endeavor to maximize the chance of female offspring will be helped by the staff to do so. Of course, there is no way to *insure* that a given conceptus will be female, and many women would reject the later option of amniocentesis and (possible) abortion. Accordingly, any women who, by whatever method, tries to influence the probability of conceiving one sex or the other must face up to the possibility that she will bear a child of the sex she desires less. If that occurs, then she must face raising a child who is to some extent unwanted. We know what happens to girl babies in many sections of India; the fact that boy babies are, in mass American culture, slightly more wanted than girl babies is not an excuse for the reverse. One cannot help what one wishes, of course. But one can help what one does about those wishes. It is unfortunate that *GCN* has printed an article that seems to suggest that the FWHC would encourage their clients to make these distinctions.

Sincerely yours,
Charles Bonnell
Baltimore, MD

efficiency

To the Editor:

John Ward's assertion (*GCN*, "Community Voices," November 6, 1982) that the recent endorsements of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (BLGPA) were made before the October 20 Candidates Night and that the BLGPA stated it would make no endorsements this fall are both absolutely false.

The BLGPA made its post-Primary endorsement decisions immediately following the Candidates Night and seriously considered the statements of the candidates that evening in its deliberations. Through a well-coordinated effort, BLGPA was able to prepare and stuff the endorsement flyer in the next issue of *GCN*. This can be independently verified from our printer. Moreover, I made it very clear the BLGPA's endorsements this fall (both pre-Primary and post-Primary) were made and to be made by the Steering Committee, but that beginning in January BLGPA endorsements would be made by a two-thirds vote of the membership. John Ward assumed that BLGPA could not have been efficient enough to prepare and stuff its endorsement flyer within 40 hours and didn't bother to inquire before preparing his own hasty and damaging criticism.

We respect John Ward's dissent from two of our specific endorsements, that of Rep. Tom Vallyely and Sen. Michael LoPresti. His opinions are sincere and well-considered. We simply disagree. However, John Ward's criticism of the integrity of the process by which BLGPA made these endorsements is most disheartening to those of us who have worked hard to fulfill a need for Boston's lesbian and gay community and who respect John Ward's leadership and efforts so much that we intend to honor him at our first community recognition awards evening on November 12.

BLGPA is a young organization attempting to win the respect of our community. We'd hope that all members of the community, especially its leaders, would check the facts before discrediting our efforts publicly. We'd also hope that upon examining these facts, John Ward will be just as prompt in correcting the public record.

Very truly yours,
Timothy I. McFeeley
Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance
Boston, MA



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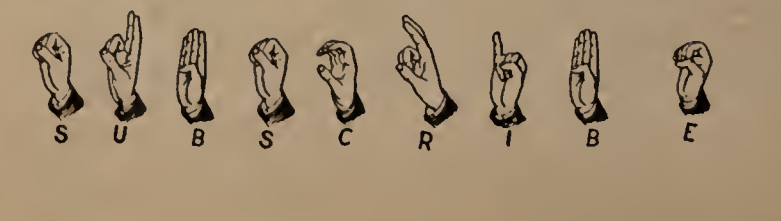
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ORANGE HANKIE LEFT
LIGHT BLUE HANKIE LEFT
WHITE HANKIE LEFT

Boston's Best All Male Show!



IGA Members Found 'Network of the Americas'

By Marc Killinger
PHILADELPHIA — Forming itself with "modest yet significant goals," the Network of the Americas of the International Gay Association (IGA) held its first meeting here on October 30 and 31. Attended by 20 individuals representing eight IGA member groups in the United States and Canada, the meeting moved to replace the former IGA American liaison office, through which "communication wasn't happening," according to long-time IGA participant Michael Weltmann.

The work of IGA Network of the Americas will be carried out in part by three working groups based in New York City, Philadelphia and Toronto. The New York and Philadelphia groups will be responsible especially for general promotion of the IGA and for spreading consciousness about issues like violence against lesbians and gays, which have relevance internationally. According to a resolution passed during the meeting, the Network "will encourage full IGA membership and also provide information free on IGA activities on local issues and activities of international import to interested groups and individuals."

IGA is a worldwide association of lesbian and gay organizations formed in Coventry, England, in 1978 "to work for the liberation of lesbian/gay women and gay men from legal, social, cultural and economic discrimination." The association began primarily as a

European net work. Its membership has spread slowly to include the rest of the world, although membership and participation by organizations in what North Americans call "Third World" countries has been minimal for the young association.

It remains to be seen on what level the Network, which received greetings from two South American member organizations, can function in the whole hemisphere. Debate on this question concluded with the decision to poll all IGA members in the hemisphere regarding their needs and interests. Several people at the meeting spoke of their own contacts in Latin America and voiced the need for consideration and involvement in IGA of the several North American projects that monitor the Latin American Gay movement.

It is hoped that support for the Latin American movement will take on a financial aspect as well: a primary responsibility of the three working groups and of interested individuals in Indiana, Washington DC and San Francisco will be to raise funds for ongoing program work, to help more groups in the Americas join IGA and to support travel to the next annual IGA meeting in Vienna in July 1983.

At the annual conference of the entire IGA in July, many delegates from Europe expressed interest in a march on the United Nations to present lesbian and gay human rights concerns. On Halloween,

the Network of the Americas voted to send a letter to the Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee (CSLDC) in New York, noting its interest in "exploring the possibility of including an international focus and participation in the 1984 CSLDC activities."

The group showed particular enthusiasm brainstorming other ways to celebrate what IGA and the International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS) have declared to be the Year for Lesbians and Gay Males in 1984. Ideas included having organizations make their national conventions international; doing actions around immigration at airports; developing a special film or slide show and a brochure listing already existing media tools; and having "international necking" at borders between countries, such as the peace bridges between the United States and Canada.

IGA members from Toronto will coordinate internal communications for the Network.

For more information of the IGA Network of the Americas, write c/o Giovanni's Room, 345 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

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Music

Holly Near: Two Views

Susan Fleischmann



Holly Near talks with the press before her Boston performances.

"Enjoyable and Affirming"

Holly Near in concert presented by Mobilization for Survival produced by Leslie Cagan Friday October 22 (and Saturday October 23) at the Boston Opera House with Adrienne Torf, piano Carrie Barton, bass Carol Chaikin, sax & flute Cam Davis, drums Susan Freundlich, ASL interpreter

By Nancy Wechsler

"Be Disarming! Challenge the Nuclear Mentality" is the theme of Holly Near's recent national tour. She gave wonderful performances here in Boston at the Opera House Friday and Saturday, October 22nd, and 23rd. The concert was a benefit for Boston Mobilization for Survival, a local activist group

doing work around disarmament and "meeting human needs."

I went to the concert not knowing what to expect. I've always enjoyed Holly Near's concerts, but I had listened to her recent album and not been impressed by either the lyrics or the music. I had heard she was trying to reach out to a broader audience, be more "mainstream" and I wondered if this would make me feel more alienated than I had at her earlier concerts. I hadn't liked some of the slick promo material advertising the concert, and the album, and that also worried me.

The concert itself was enjoyable and affirming. Holly Near is still

one of the most talented political artists around. She has a wonderful, loud, strong voice and was very at-ease on stage. She combined good music with personal/political raps on disarmament, the November elections, Reagan, abortion, and lesbian and gay issues.

While much of women's music is becoming more mainstream, commercial and less political, it was good to be at a concert that combined music with a message for people to get politically active.

The "back-up" band that played with Near was composed of excellent musicians, and the audience responded enthusiastically to the whole group. Solos by Adrienne Torf on piano and Carol Chaikin on horn were especially noteworthy.

Near sang a mixture of songs from her latest albums and songs from her first albums. I've always liked her early music and it was good to hear some of it again. Her new songs, which on the album seemed flat, rhetorical or simply boring, came across fuller and worked better in a live concert. I'm not sure why. Perhaps they needed her introductory raps to make them work. Her new song about El Salvadore still falls flat on the record and in concert; it just doesn't seem up to par with her earlier works.

It's not clear where Holly Near's music is going. It remains to be seen whether she can successfully pull together and hold an audience from the Left, the women's movement, and the lesbian and gay movements and also reach out to a broader grouping, without losing or alienating those lesbians and feminists who have been her main support the last few years.

"Imagine My Surprise"

By Read Weaver

In 1979 in San Francisco, Holly Near said to a crowd of 200,000 lesbians and gay men, "I want to thank you, because without people like you, I wouldn't be a lesbian — and I'm so glad I'm a lesbian!" Hearing that was important for me; that scene and her voice remain vivid.

Imagine, as it were, my surprise, then, at Holly Near's latest album and concert tour: music so devoted to lesbianism that the response to a question about the lack of women-identified songs on her new album included, "If . . . your question is 'Have you moved away from supporting gay and lesbian rights?' the answer is no."

Really, it hadn't occurred to me that Holly Near might have moved away from supporting gay and lesbian rights. Is it rude to point out that *Bay Area Music* said in 1980, "... When she refers to her homosexuality she refers to herself as a 'lesbian feminist,' pointing out that there's a difference between supporting gay rights and lesbian feminism . . . "?

Of Holly's new material, "Back Off" is the only upfront women-identified song: "If you want to hold me, hold me with open arms/ the fact that I've got self-respect is no cause for alarm." Now I know that Holly Near knows that the fact that a woman respects herself can make strong men tremble — why is she saying things like this?

She cites "Emma" as a strong political song — well, as a friend put it, songs about "mak[ing] love with consenting humans" I can do without.

Holly Near is an enormously

talented lyricist — so why are we being given lines like:

Wings of an eagle

The heartbeat of a dove

Slowly, I begin to understand

You really are a dancing bird.

Not only are these dumb lyrics, but they contribute to a surfeit of genderless love songs in women's music.

Though her songwriting has deteriorated, Holly remains a good performer. I am impressed that she is constantly re-working songs — new words, new arrangements, entirely new rhythms. I have seen Holly perform "Hay una mujer" at least five times, and I was tremendously moved by the performance of it last Friday (which included a striking new sign language interpretation by Susan Freundlich, and an incredible piano solo by Adrienne Torf). I also very much liked the music and the incredible rhythms of "Coming Home." Still, I was less moved, the audience was less excited, than has been true in the past.

In her music, in her on-stage raps, in what she has said to the press, it is clear that Holly is trying to reach a broader audience. In her press conference Friday she said, "We have to stop thinking of ourselves as radicals" because otherwise we cut ourselves off from the people. She is very happy that "Back Off" is getting mainstream airplay. She is writing and performing music that is much more formulaic, predictable than she has in the past. She is not writing lesbian love songs.

This concert was part of a tour

Continued on page 11

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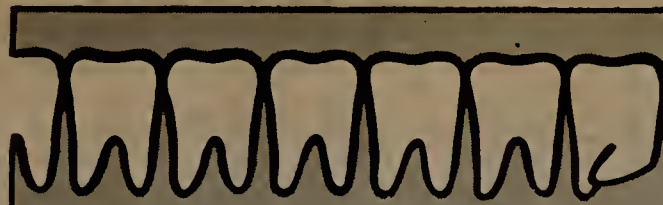
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Thomas Eakins: Artist of Philadelphia

"THE PEOPLE WHO LIKE EAKINS BEST ARE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO ART PREJUDICES TO INTERPOSE."
— Walt Whitman



(1) If Thomas Eakins were as well known as his contemporary and friend Walt Whitman, perhaps we would hear more of the same sort of conjecture over his sexuality that finds its way into even the most tame Whitman criticism. As it is, Eakins' name comes up infrequently in conversations about our famous gay and putatively gay ancestors: one hears of Gertrude Stein, Dag Hammarskjöld, even Bill Tilden. Yet Eakins, who made sensuous paintings of nude men and sexually-charged all-male environments, so far has not been adopted by gay people as one of "our own." A current exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston contains 125 of Eakins' paintings, photographs, and sculptures, which show the nineteenth century realist to be worthy of more serious consideration that he has received in the past, as an artist in general and as a sensitive male observer of men in particular. Thomas Eakins: Artist of Philadelphia clearly shows that Eakins had a deep empathy for other men, and depicted them with a more-than-Victorian interest in their maleness.

Eakins' ideas about art were bold and threatening to many of his contemporaries. He revolted against Romanticism and its emotional predilections, and saw art, its meaning, and its techniques as inseparable elements of a whole. He studies anatomy and perspective intensely and from an early age. The current art-school practice of drawing from casts of classical sculpture for months or even years before even picking up a paint brush he abhorred not out of a dislike of classicism but out of a conviction that beauty in art was recreating reality, and that the only way to do this was to paint (not draw) from live nude models, just as the Greeks had done. When a nude model was used, it was usually a woman, and the entire process was bound by conventions to be dull, at least for Eakins. As a student in France, Eakins came to despise the insipid salon nude: "When a man paints a naked woman he gives her less than poor Nature did. I can conceive of a few circumstances wherein I would have to paint a woman naked, but if I did I would not mutilate her for double the money. She is the most beautiful thing there is — except a naked man, but I never yet saw a study of one exhibited."

At the Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts, where he taught and served as director in the 1870s and 1880s, he instituted classes in human and animal dissection in order to emphasize the importance of anatomy. Traditionally, only men stu-

dents had been allowed limited exposure to live models, and the woman models had worn masks to preserve anonymity and moral propriety. Now Eakins was using nude models, male and female, in mixed-sex classes. Furthermore, several of his students were posing nude for Eakins' camera as part of his further research into anatomy and motion. Neither the warm bodies nor the cadavers went over well with the faculty, parents of students, or the public. Eakins' moral fiber was matter for more than one scandal, and his scientific approach to art was called into question by critics and colleagues alike. Tension grew over the years and when, in 1886, Eakins removed the loin cloth from a male model in a women's life drawing class in order to demonstrate the structure of the pelvis, he was dismissed from the Academy. Many of Eakins' students remained faithful, but when their protests at his dismissal were ineffectual, and the seceded from the Academy and formed an independent co-operative art students' league, with Eakins as their mentor. This was only one of many clashes with the art establishment throughout Eakins' career.

The emphasis on anatomy in Eakins' work pays off in a sensuousness that one doesn't expect from such a time and place. One of the first works in the exhibit is *Study of a Nude Man (The Strong Man)*, an early painting of the head, neck, and upper torso of a man. The head is turned away from the viewer, exposing the taut musculature of the neck and shoulder. The man seems on the verge of movement, and the latent power of his form creates a dramatic tension. With its subdued sexual energy, it could serve as the key signature for many of the works in the exhibition.

Eakins lived near the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia and often watched friends rowing there. As a painter and a rower himself, Eakins was fascinated with the complexity of movement involved in rowing and with trying to capture this essence in a painting. The problem of perspective (one or two figures located on a receding plane), the play of light and color in open air and on the water, and the concentration on an isolated form motivated Eakins to execute a series of paintings on rowing. However, these paintings are not merely technical exercises or sportsmanly portraits of friends. They are striking studies of men in solitary or co-operative exertion, with meticulous attention to both the muscular and the emotional discipline required of them. Dramatic tension and its implication of sexual energy are thoroughly developed in the suspended animation of such a kinetic activity, from the flexed muscles of torsos to the water droplets falling from a poised oar. Eakins obviously saw something essentially male in the beauty of the sport, and his translation of it onto canvas succeeds.

Whereas the rowing paintings show a self-absorbed devotion to sport, athletics as a communal rite is the topic of two boxing scenes in the exhibition. In preparation for them Eakins took photographs of his students wrestling and boxing out of doors in the nude. *Salutat* shows a victor, in a heroic posture deliberately reminiscent of the gladiators, acknowledging the crowd's applause. The vulnerability of the fighter is emphasized by his near nudity before row upon row of black-suited, top-hatted men. Eakins depicts an all-male world in which the male need for other males has been sublimated and validated by such institutions as boxing. The boxer, though obviously at sexual variance with the audience, is lent dignity by the light that bathes him alone and by his obliviousness to the coarse spectators cheering him. He is the model of grace and confidence despite the imbalance of power. This could be the way Eakins viewed himself in the face of his detractors.

Between Rounds, the other boxing painting in this exhibition, shows that Eakins recognized the ritual nature of the sport: a police officer stands ready to prohibit the uninitiated from entering this all-male precinct, sports writers in the press box

record the proceedings, the timekeeper supervises like a temple priest, and the attendant waves his cloth with a flourish to revive the fighter, who is in the center of the composition and surrounded by an aura of light. He pulls heavily on the ropes as he slumps in his corner, as if to draw energy from them by tensing them. Whether he is sacrificer or sacrificed is unclear in this wholly ambiguous ceremony.

After these rather macho expressions of male sexuality, the idyllic pre-classical *Arcadia* comes as a surprise. Three nude boys lounge in a clearing, two playing pipes and the third raptly listening. It seems like an anomaly among the realistic subjects of the rest of Eakins' oeuvre, but it is in fact consistent. Unlike the Briton Edward Burne-Jones and others, Eakins is not romanticizing the classical past but depicting some timeless scene for the lesson of simplicity it contains. In using nude boys to image an ideal of purity, Eakins joins the ranks of Baron von Gloeden and other Victorian artists, but it is a short-lived association; Eakins is far more comfortable painting muscled men than androgynous youths.

A synthesis of the two impulses — to represent both adult sexuality and child-like purity — is found in Eakins' famous painting *The Swimming Hole*. Modeled on photographs he took on an outing with students, the painting shows a group of men ranging from adolescents to the middle-aged swimming, diving, and lounging at a lake. Sexual innuendo abounds: a diving boy depicted just as his head enters the water, an outstretched hand that appears to be reaching for another's buttocks, the defiant pelvic thrust of the standing youth, the languidly reclining mature man.

The bodies are well-defined and naturally sexual, while the scene itself recalls childhood play in its unself-conscious enjoyment of skinny-dipping. The composition is forthrightly classical, the figures being arranged in an echo of a temple's triangular pediment. Most critics believe that Eakins included a self-portrait in the extreme lower right corner of the canvas, where a man crouches in the water at some distance from the main activity. His marginality to the gleeful scene, the one somber note in the whole painting, is likely another comment by Eakins on the lack of understanding with which the art world met his insistence on the nude as inspiration and perhaps his too-sensual paintings of men. It is a defiant theme, all the more so because of its successful execution.

At mid-career, Eakins virtually stopped painting nudes and subject canvasses and devoted himself to producing portraits of astounding psychological insight and candid scrutiny. He probably tired of the decades of overt discrimination he had suffered for maintaining his artistic scruples, and decided that portraits would be more acceptable to the public. As it happened, however, his tendency to age his sitters and show them in less-than-flattering states of distraction, depression, and preoccupation made his portraits just as unsaleable as his other works. One of the most famous portraits is of Walt Whitman, and it is proof that Eakins had not forgotten or compromised his earlier interest in what is male. The portrait is slow to reveal its essence, and seems at first rather plain. But gradually one notices the bit of lace on Whitman's collar, his rumpled suit, the vital sweep of his beard, the smile beneath all the whiskers, the play of light on the broad intelligent forehead, and the clarity of the eyes. Whitman in this portrait, as in his poetry, exudes joy, compassion, and a confidence of vision. Of the portrait, Whitman said, "The more I get to realize it, the profounder seems its insight. I never knew but one artist, and that's Tom Eakins, who could resist the temptation to see what they thought ought to be rather than what is."

(1) GEORGE REYNOLDS
1883 *Seven photographs*.
The emphasis on anatomy in Eakins' work pays off in a sensuousness that one doesn't expect from such a time and place.

(2) SALUTAT
1898 *Oil on canvas*
Eakins depicts an all-male world in which the male need for other males has been sublimated and validated by such institutions as boxing.

(3) THE SWIMMING HOLE
1883-5 *Oil on canvas*.
Most critics believe that Eakins included a self-portrait in the extreme lower right corner. His marginality to the scene is likely another comment on the lack of understanding with which the art world met his insistence on the nude and his all-too-sensual paintings of men.

(4) PERSPECTIVE DRAWING FOR "JOHN BIGLIN IN A SINGLE SCULL"
1873-74 *Pencil, ink and wash on paper*.
Eakins obviously saw something essentially male in the beauty of the sport . . .

(5) PORTRAIT OF WALT WHITMAN
1887-88 *Oil on canvas*.
A later work and one of Eakins' most famous portraits, it is proof that Eakins had not forgotten or compromised his earlier interest in what is male.

COVER:
TOP TO BOTTOM: MAN RUNNING TO THE LEFT; MAN POLE-VAULTING TO THE RIGHT; BOY JUMPING HORIZONTALLY

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Music Gayle Marie Bandless Blues

Gayle Marie with Jan Martinelli.
At Ryles, Cambridge, Mass.,
Oct. 27.

By Ruth Borenstein

Gayle Marie has one of the strongest voices on the women's music scene. She is the rare kind of singer who can instantly take command of a stage. Capable of belting out a blues number as well as caressing a ballad, her sound is reminiscent of a more versatile Jane Oliver.

Her abilities as a songwriter nicely compliment her singing. She writes flowing melodies with repeating choruses that, especially in the ballads, let her voice take prominence. "Rainbow At Night" and "Sweet And Serene" are two lovely songs, the latter being almost a lullaby that would sound very much at home on albums by Jane Oliver or Barbra Streisand. She also included a lyrical rendition of "The Need To Be," a song about holding onto oneself within a relationship that was once a hit for Esther Satterfield.

The ballads in Gayle's set came off well not only because they showcased her vocals, but also because they were well-suited to the limited accompaniment of herself on piano and Jan Martinelli on bass. Her uptempo songs, however, did not fare as well. Piano and bass alone were simply not enough to really drive the songs ahead, and they never took off with the vitality Gayle achieves on her new album, *Night Rainbow*. (Currently available as a cassette, it will be released in album form around Valentine's Day.)

"Stormy Nights," a bluesy, Bonnie Raitt-style tune, is a highlight of the album. Complete with guitar and sax solos, a walking bass line, and a duet vocal with Gwen Avery, it's a hot number. The song was also a high point of the concert as Barbara Phaneuf,



Gayle Marie's national tour continues through December.

who had played an opening set, came on stage for an impromptu duet. Still, even with fine piano playing by Jan, they were never able to kick into high gear the way the album version does.

Another song that begged for a full band treatment was "What Am I Left To Think, I Must Be In Love With You," a great swing tune that unfortunately is not included on the album.

The album is expertly produced by Mary Watkins, who gets a light

jazzy feel from the ensemble of talented musicians which includes June Millington, Linda Tillery, and other women's music veterans. Mary brings her unmistakable touch to "The Way You Smile," which she and Gayle wrote together. It's a lively balance of funk and jazz similar to Randy Crawford's version of "Street Life." "Sweet Refrain" and "Boston Time" get similar treatments, although the latter is slowed down slightly by a somewhat heavy-handed lead vocal.

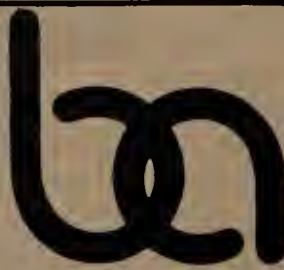
Gayle's tour continues through Christmas as she travels largely through the South performing a number of benefits for battered women's shelters. While I don't think that the limited instrumentation of this tour does justice to what Gayle Marie can really do,

Continued on next page



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Brutality

Continued from page 1

Both were bleeding.

Maplethorpe used his camera to photograph the scuffle until he was noticed by a police officer. Fearing that his film would be confiscated, Maplethorpe passed his camera to a nearby onlooker, who then passed it on to a Metro employee.

"The cop ran over to me and said, 'You were taking pictures. That's inciting a crowd to riot. You're under arrest,'" Maplethorpe recalled. "Then he bent me over a car hood and handcuffed me."

Maplethorpe and the others were released on bond and arraigned the following morning. When Maplethorpe returned to The Metro the next day to retrieve his camera, the film was gone.

"The secretary there said the cops confiscated it," he told *GCN*, adding that the pictures he took might serve as evidence of the police beatings.

Maplethorpe also stressed his and the other defendants' need to locate onlookers who were at The Metro and could supply additional information or testify as to what happened. Witnesses to the incident are urged to call *GCN* at (617) 426-4469.

Conference

Continued from page 3

Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee.

"We invited two internationally known gay people [British rock star Tom Robinson and Mexican gay activist Ignacio Alvarez] to appear on the main stage during the celebration because we wanted

to throw it in the face of the Immigration and Naturalization Service later when we filed suit against them," Day stated.

"One of the greatest victories of this whole battle," he added, "is not that we've won an injunction, but that for the first time two opposing forces within our com-

Continued on page 13

Near: Surprise

Continued from page 7

supporting organizations working for disarmament ("Be Disarming: Challenge the Nuclear Mentality"). It can be argued that a tour for disarmament can't effectively include the politics of lesbianism. Yet Holly's 1979 concerts, "On Tour For a Nuclear Free Future," focused enormously on what it means to be a lesbian, and I believe at the same time spoke about nuclear insanity in powerfully clear ways. I missed that on Friday — neither lesbianism nor disarmament played a moving part in the evening.

Much of Holly Near's strength as a performer has come from the fact that she has sung out of the power of discovery. *Hang In There* was about the work against imperialism that was much of her

life. *A Live Album* was about sexism just as Holly became a "women's music" performer. *Imagine My Surprise* was about lesbianism from a woman who'd just come out. Now she's into being mainstream, and I don't think she's any more excited about it than I am.

Holly Near has written songs that touch people in important ways. There are songs that I have heard over and over again that still excite me; I know so many people who feel they owe Holly much. I don't long doubt that her music will continue to influence people. But to many of us it is becoming clear that she has stopped writing lesbian feminist material, that she has turned away from a lesbian feminist audience. That is her choice, and though I am disappointed at that choice, I don't want to see her trashed for it. Nonetheless, for those of us drawn to Holly Near because she was writing about strong women, about the joy of being queer, sad and frustrating as it may be, she's no longer writing for us.

Gayle Marie

Continued from preceding page

her concerts certainly provide a worthwhile introduction to her music. But until such time as Gayle gets the opportunity to tour with a back-up band that will let her give the kind of electric performance I think she can, her album is the best representation of her talent.

Special kudos go to Jan Martelli, whose fluid bass line complemented the piano's sound admirably. She really gets to cut loose on the album, and she's another reason I'm anxious to see Gayle Marie in concert fronting a full band.

The opening set was by Barbara Phaneuf, an assured guitarist who performed her own songs. Buoyed by the support of friends in the audience, she played confidently in a variety of styles but was most effective in the whimsical numbers "I Hate The Green Line" and "Women Are Like Musical Chairs."

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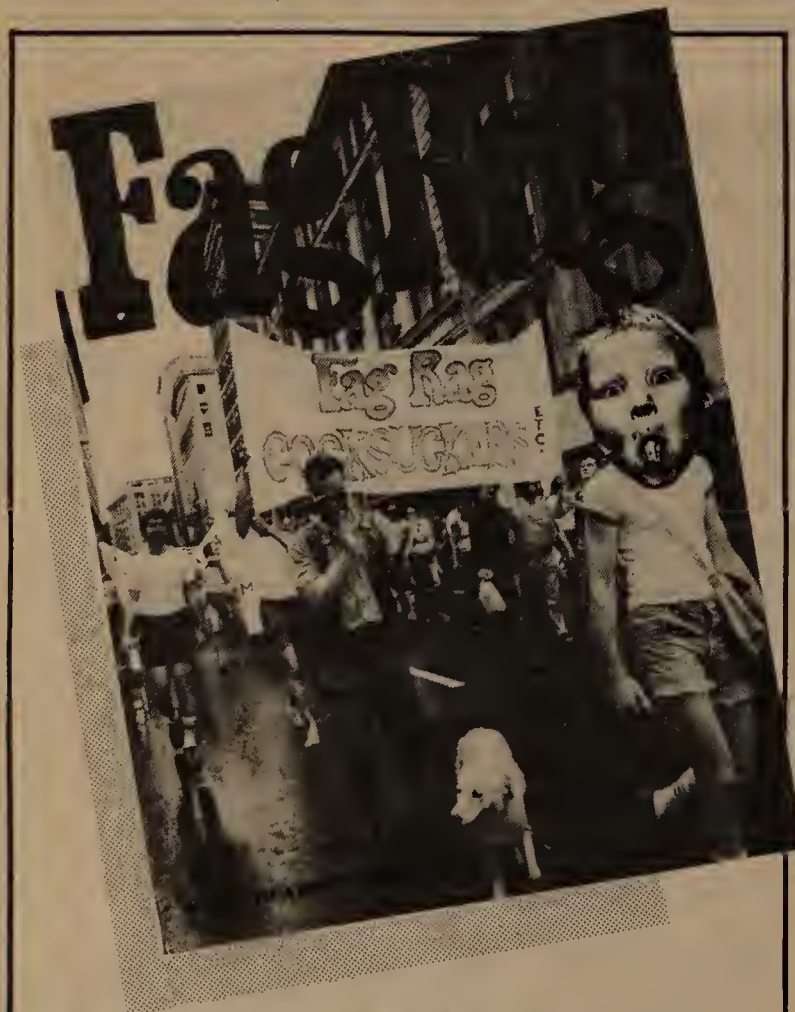
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Film L'Adolescente and Jinxed! Women in Films: Two Ways to Go

Jinxed! Directed by Don Siegel. Screenplay by Bert Blessing and David Newman. With Bette Midler, Ken Wahl, Rip Torn. Running time 1 hr. 43 min.

L'Adolescente. Directed by Jeanne Moreau. Screenplay by Henriette Jelinek. With Laetitia Chauveau, Simone Signoret, Edith Clever. Running time 93 minutes.

By Michael Bronski

Item No. 1: A bleached-out bubble-headed Bette Midler stands over a tiny sink in a trailer. She is almost crying as she tries to get some dinner together for her brute of a lover, Harold (Rip Torn), hoping he desists in his threats to knock her teeth in, thus preventing her from pursuing a singing career.

Item No. 2: The summer solstice moon shines beautifully over the French countryside forest. Mamie (Simone Signoret) and her granddaughter Matie (Laetitia Chauveau) gather the dew from the leaves to fill a bottle with "moon water," a magical elixir for curing physical ills. Grandmother and granddaughter stand in the moonlight like icons of age and youth, wisdom and innocence: the Eleusinian mysteries meet post-new wave French cinema.

It's been almost a decade since feminists — and critics — have been examining the role of women in movies. There was a great hue and cry against the injustice done to both the image of women and the hardships professional women had to work under within the industry. Several books were published and several "women's movies" were produced, but since

when it all works out and she gets to ride into the neon sunset of Reno. The script, by Bert Blessing and David Newman, is nothing more than a slim notion of plot strung together with a couple of one liners that Midler delivers much better than they deserve to be. (Bert Blessing is a pseudonym for Frank Gilroy whose kitch 'n sink family drama *The Subject Was Roses* was a dreary hit in the 60s.)

The tragedy here is not that Hollywood has turned out another dumb corker of a comedy, but that Bette Midler is wasted so badly in it. After showing that she could do almost anything she wanted to in her revues (and in the film *Divine Madness*), Midler went on to act up a quite credible storm in *The Rose*. It seemed as though she could do almost anything, except, perhaps, choose the right script.

If *Jinxed!* had come in another time of Hollywood's history it may not have been as disastrous. God knows there were enough bad movies made in the 30s and 40s, but the studio system was arranged differently then. They made lots of movies and people went to lots of movies, even bad ones. These days it costs so much to make one film that it has to be a hit; if not, so much money is lost that both careers and studio heads roll. That is why the money men bank on blockbusters like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* or *Star Wars*. In the old days the hits could be counted on to sustain the flops: nowadays you aren't allowed to have flops.

The other change in the last 40



L'Adolescente: Unfortunately a dried up attempt by women to cover all the things men have been doing wrong in films. Right: Laetitia Chauveau (Maria) and her grandmother played by Simone Signoret.

they did not start a moneymaking trend, the genre did not flourish. Things don't look all that much better ten years later. These two films — one quintessentially European, the other all too obviously Hollywood — are concurrent offerings that signify, in some ways, the state of women in films today.

Jinxed! is a sorry mess of a movie. Unfortunately, it is a sorry mess that drags Bette Midler down in its maelstrom of mediocrity. Scrambling genres, it tries to be a black screwball comedy: sort of a *Double Indemnity* meets *Bringing Up Baby*. Bette plays a dizzy, battered woman, Bonita, who decides to kill her no-good gambling boyfriend Harold, for the insurance money. Of course everything goes wrong — until the last moment,

years is that the supply of bankable female stars (they used to be called leading ladies) has dwindled. The days of Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Garbo, Myrna Loy, Lana Turner, Norma Shearer, Greer Garson, Claudette Colbert and countless others are gone and now we are left with Barbra Streisand, perhaps Meryl Streep, and Bette Midler. There are a handful of men who can still sell a film to the general public — Newman, Redford, DeNiro (and even they are being replaced by special effects; who needs Paul Newman when you can have a real intergalactic war?). The decline of the bankable female star has dovetailed neatly into the treatment of women on the screen (Molly Haskell's book titled *From Reverence to Rape* tells it all). American cul



What a waste! Bette Midler (with friend) in *Jinxed!*.

ture had reached a low point in the 50s — actually after the war — when it was just not very interested in women and their lives. Bette Midler seemed like a beacon — or rather a star — for the future: talent, brains, energy, but most of all a moneymaker.

Of course nobody forced Midler to do *Jinxed!*, but I doubt that many could figure out *why* she did it. Up until now she has been careful about film. She turned down the plum Barbara Harris role in Altman's *Nashville* because she wanted something more auspicious for a movie debut. She also turned down the Carol Burnett role in *Annie* because she wasn't going to play second fiddle to a three-foot-high kid wearing a red wig. Both were good decisions, as were making *The Rose* and *Divine Madness*, but *Jinxed!* is inexplicable.

Besides the awful script, part of *Jinxed!*'s problem is it doesn't let Midler come across as well or strong as she is able. It's not as though she *always* has to have a wisecrack and a song on her lips, but we have come to expect her to be on top, to be with the material, not dragged down by it. The production notes for *Jinxed!* keep referring to Bonita as a loser who becomes a winner, unlike the loser rock singer in *The Rose*. The irony is that for all of the rotten luck of Midler's character in *The Rose*, she had more drive, life and umph than the washout in *Jinxed!*. In fact, the death of the Rose seems preferable, has more integrity, than Bonita's fate of going off with some Ken-doll of an actor (Ken Wahl) in *Jinxed!*.

Hopefully, *Jinxed!* won't be ephemeral for Midler's career. She has too much vitality and wit *not* to make it in Hollywood. And god knows, Hollywood can use her. Whatever poor judgment caused her to choose this script should be rectified by the generally poor review and box office. Liza Minnelli chose several bad scripts (*Lucky Lady*, *A Matter of Time*) and her major career dwindled into playing second leads in second rate comedies. Bette deserves better than this.

Much of the discussion of women and films centers on women making their own films, and to be sure there are only a handful of women directors in film history. Actress Jeanne Mor-

Continued on next page

Women in Films

Continued from preceding page
eau directed her first feature film *Lumiere* in 1976. It met with decent reviews and was a minor though financial and critical success. Although low key, it dealt with the lives of several women in an honest and forthright manner. Her new film tries the same methods but with less success.

L'Adolescente feels like Moreau has read a description, in a book on feminist aesthetics, about the perfect film directed by a woman. It eschews violence, too much action, focuses on the internal emotional lives of its characters, deals mainly with female characters, and explores the connections between love, sexuality, and the physical in their lives. In short it manages to cover all the things that men have been doing wrong in films. The problem is not in attempting this — it's a great idea — but *L'Adolescente* is so solemn, so filled with good intentions, and so intent on showing the beautiful, lyrical side of life that it ends up lifeless.

Little Marie (Laetitia Chauveau) has gone to the country with her parents just before the beginning of World War II. They are staying with her grandmother Mamie (Simone Signoret). Just reaching puberty, Marie falls in love with the local doctor. He, unfortunately, is her mother's lover. There is much romantic nonsense talk of the "first love" of one's life being the only real love, and as you might expect Marie comes away hurt and less innocent. (There is also a concurrent metaphor of Europe becoming less innocent, but the less said about this the better.)

The surprising thing about *L'Adolescente* is how dried up it feels. It is beautifully photographed and this suggests the lyricism of childhood innocence, but the film is also about passion: precisely what it lacks. There have

been other great films about the mysteries of childhood — Carlos Saura's *Cria* and *The Spirit of the Beehive* spring to mind — and they fill us with the terrors and pities of being a child; *L'Adolescente* does not bring us into Marie's world, it merely lets us observe a series of static, though beautiful, scenes. Everything here is understated — trying to avoid the obvious, Moreau has tried to capture nuances so slight and minute that they are practically unstated. It is an interesting attempt but it does not let us get near the characters; they remain remote and unheard. You can see that there is supposed to be passion, lust here — everyone seems to have the hots for everyone else — but you can never feel it. One of the few things that does work in the film is the relationship between Mamie and Marie. Signoret and Chauveau work well together but it seems to be mostly their chemistry that ignites the movie, not the script or the filming.

Although *L'Adolescente* is an ambitious failure, it is curious that it sprang from the talents of Jeanne Moreau. In over 45 films since 1960 she has always shown herself to be a vibrant, vital actress. In *Jules and Jim*, *Bay of Angels*, even the obnoxious *Going Places*, she managed to convey a life force with subtlety and understatement. Even in her most subdued roles she brought a fire to the screen that was uniquely hers and uniquely woman-centered. Perhaps the problem with *L'Adolescente* is that she is on the wrong side of the camera. Although any film directed by a woman is a step in the right direction, Moreau has served both women and art better before.

European films are not hampered by the same stifling that kills Hollywood films. Just the fact that there *are* women stars points to a great difference. (It is

interesting that Fassbinder's last films are all centered around women: *Maria Braun*, *Lili Marleen*, *Lola*, *Veronika Voss*, and that many of his plots are reminiscent of the old Joan Crawford career girl movies of the 40s.) And it was clearly Moreau's reputation as an actress that allowed her to get the backing for her own films and projects. As an outspoken feminist, she wanted to break from what she saw as a tradition in male filmmaking. Perhaps the ground has not yet been fully broken; there is little history to learn or fall back on. *L'Adolescente* is a valiant try and you can only hope that she is allowed her mistakes. (You can be sure Hollywood wouldn't.)

The production of any film is a nexus of cultural, political, economic, and personal circumstances. Hopefully neither Bette Midler nor Jeanne Moreau will be thwarted in pursuing their personal visions or careers further. Serious discussion of women in films is not very old and we are still learning and discovering new things and people. Things can only get better.

Conference

Continued from page 11
munity, the moderates and the radicals, went into court together and got a stronger resolution than either could have won alone."

With a similar message of cooperation, Daniel Tsang expressed concern over increases in "government repression . . . under the Reagan regime [see *GCN*, Vol. 10, No. 15]. We in the lesbian and gay movement," he told Guidepost conferees shortly after their arrival, "not only need to unite on issues of common interest but also need to find allies in the progressive left. Only then can we hope to win over the government's repression of our politics and sexuality."

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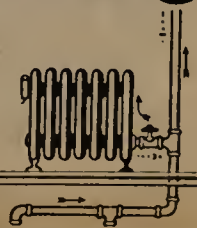
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WHY DID RITA MAE BROWN SAY

"... lively, provocative and beautiful to look at ..." about MAENAD, a women's literary journal? FIND OUT! #7 Freeing the Allens Within; #8 Bonding (Fall 82); #9 Where Are you as A Woman? (Winter 83); #10 These Are The Facts (Spring 83); \$16/yr, \$24/instl, \$4.50/copy. Bookstore Rates. MAENAD, PO Box 738, Gloucester, MA 01930. (2378)

GRAB ITT

Read In These Times, the independent national socialist newspaper. Each week brings fresh and responsible socialist analyses of critical issues & unique features. Congressperson John Conyers says we're "invaluable." SF Supervisor Harry Britt supports us. Why don't you read us? 6 mo sub/10.95. In These Times, 1509 N. Milwaukee, Dept A, Chicago, IL 60622. (29) (30x)

FOCUS

A Journal for Lesbians. America's oldest literary mag for lesbians. 11 yrs continuous publication. Fiction, poetry, reviews, essays, graphics. Quality our only criterion. Submissions as well as subscriptions always welcome. Or come see us, first Weds of the month. 7pm at OCB, 1151 Mass Av, Camb, MA 02138, or DOB office. \$8/yr for 6 issues. \$1.35 + 40¢ postage for sample copy. \$10/yr for libraries. Plain envelope. For further info (617) 259-0063.

Free lesbian catalogue of books, send two 15¢ stamps. Womankind Books, Dept GCN, 1899 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746 (516) 427-1289. (12)

GUARDIAN: Independent radical news-weekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles, and international progressive movements. Special offer 4 issues FREE. Write Guardian Dept. GCN, 33 W 17th St., NY NY 10011. (ex)

Monthly calendar of women's events in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. \$1 for sample issue, \$7.50 per year. Write: Full Circle, P.O. Box 235, Concoctook, NH 03229. (15)

PLEXUS

San Francisco Bay Area Women's Newspaper since 1974 brings you monthly feminist news, reviews, features, community forum, calendar & more. Subs are just \$8/yr; sample copy \$1. 545 Athol Ave., Oakland, CA 94606. (1/mo)

New Spring lesbian/feminist annotated booklist for \$1.00. Womansplace Bookstore, (GCN) 2401 N. 32nd St., Phoenix, AZ 85008. (41-10x)

HOW GAY IS YOUR LIBRARY?

Pamphlet of tips for non-librarians on how to get gay materials into libraries, available from the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association. "Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive? How to Get Gay Materials into Libraries" explains library selection policies in a general way, and tells how you can get a library to buy more gay books & periodicals. Also tells what to do if library refuses your request; why gay bks are sometimes kept where you have to ask for them; & how to donate materials to the library. \$1 to Barbara Gittings — GTF, P.O. Box 2383, Phila., PA 19103. Bkstore & bulk order discount available. More info: Barbara Gittings (215) 382-3222. (c)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

Just for our info here at the Prisoner Project, people inside or out, who feel they've been treated badly should send their lamentations, complaints and other stories to GCN Prisoner Project, 167 Tremont St., Boston MA 02111. Don't expect replies or solutions. We're just looking for patterns that will help keep the penpal space active and a good place to meet some amazing people (people with convictions!). Thanks.

NOTE TO PRISONERS: If someone on the outside doesn't write you again after seeming to become your penpal, it may not be because they're thoughtless or rude. They may have fallen in love (temporary insanity) or lost your address (give them one more chance, if you've got the spare postage ...). Patience (with these people on the outside who often think the only kind of "ripoffs" involve money, who never see their stopping writing as a sort of ripoff).

ATTENTION PRISONERS

The Blackheart Collective is inviting all former and current prisoners of color to submit poetry, stories, articles, graphics and photographs for publication in BLACKHEART 2: PRISON ISSUE, a journal devoted to third world men behind bars. This issue (when it comes out) and BLACKHEART 1: Yemona are available free of charge to incarcerated brothers and sisters.

Please send submissions and requests to: The Blackheart Collective, P.O. Box 1420, New York, N.Y. 10027. Please do not send your only copy as material cannot be returned. Please help spread the word.



TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).



Lonely Capricorn seeks real friends. I enjoy dancing and the finer things in life. Sorry to read about the fire: hope you are back on your feet and all goes great. Paulette HERRELL, A150145, Box 147, Lowell FL 32663

Hey out there. I enjoy dancing, short conversation and love in return. Would love to hear from persons who have a good heart and integrity. Irene JOHNSON, 350697, Box 147, Lowell FL 32663

Native New Yorker almost done with my time, thinking about some fun. Anyone interested in helping me refresh my memory feel free to write. Pat LOMBARD, 229691, Box 147, Lowell FL 32663

Capricorn woman very open-minded and looking for a partner to marry or just love. Pat CUNNINGHAM, 5913, Box 180, Muncy PA 17756



NOTE TO PEOPLE WHO WRITE PRISONERS: If you get no response (rare) from writing one of the prisoners, it may be because he/she has been moved to another prison (and they don't usually forward mail!). One of prisons' main ways to destroy attempts by prisoners to defend themselves with lawsuits and to form "unions" and social support networks generally is to keep moving the "troublemakers" (the type that read GCN, for example) from one prison to another. It is also a form of punishment for activism to move them away from where their families and friends live.

Would anyone donate a lonely lesbian some jeans or T-shirts. Please write first so I can send a clothing permission slip. D. JOHNSON, 06141-016, Box A, Alderson WV 24910

My days here are spent listening to music, reading what I can (books are so scarce) and watching TV. I am very lonely and in desperate need of a friend. Terry HUGHES, 41260, Unit-4, Parchman MS 38738

In need of a gal or guy to dominate me completely. I'm into S/M and urolagnia. Someone out there please write me. Harrietta POPE, C-24, Box A, Alderson WV 24910

Debra JACKSON, Box A, Alderson WV 24910

Easy going, like winter sports, am seeking other gay friends any age, race, but please be sincere. Can and will talk about most topics. Shaun Lee CASSIDY, 159973, 3210 Bemis Rd., Ypsilanti MI 48197

I would like to be in touch with others in my area. I'm up for parole in Sept., 1983. Jerry HOUSTON, 33618-019, Box 1000, Leavenworth KS 66048

Sensitive with a good sense of humor, I enjoy the pleasure of exotic and sensual company. Donnie COPELAND, 165-265, Box 511, Columbus OH 43216

Would love to correspond with other gays. This is the lonely hour for me. Race, creed, or color make no difference. Marcus TAYLOR, 168-049, Box 511, Columbus OH 43216

A dental technician by trade, I'm presently working on a BA degree. If some of your readers would write to me, it would greatly brighten my days behind bars. Donald SLAVEN, 162-806, 15802 St. Rte. 104, Chillicothe OH 45601

ATTENTION ALL PRISONERS!!! Sexy, rude, hotshit rag looking for stories of your TRUE fucking experiences, in and out of jail, for anonymous publication. You'll get a copy of any book using your letter. Any language you send will be used (including your four-letter words)! Send your hot little stories to: Boyd McDonald, Box 977, Radio City Station, New York City 10101.

I have a little over a year left to serve and would like to meet anyone serious. Charles MILLER, C-32018, Box A, San Luis Obispo CA 93409

Very well built. I'm doing time and wish to correspond with someone who is sincere and interested in forming a relationship. Ronald JOHNSON, A-055-652, Box 1500, Cross City FL 32628

Buddy is what my friends call me. I'll be out in about eleven months. I hope to find someone to love and to share with. Alvin HALL, 277-636, Box 37, Chattahoochee FL 32324

One of us is down and out, lonely, and broken-hearted. Seeking letters of encouragement, love and moral support. Steve MATSON, 048-100 E-31, Box 37, Chattahoochee FL 32324

My interests are reading, sports, music and sex. I like to get high and get laid. Richard J. HIGGINS, Box 1000, Oxford, WI 53952

In prison until July, I would like to meet someone to be with on the streets. Frank LASWELL 17028, Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46360

I don't want to lose touch with reality, and the only way for me to do so is through correspondence. My hobby is stamp collecting, and I love music and all sports. Lewis MAYNARD, 165-305, Box 57, Marlon, OH 43302

Desire to correspond with hip, aware and outgoing male. My interests are classical music, opera, art and the American musical theatre. Don DUSSAULT, Box 7, Deer Lodge, MT 59722

Seeking correspondence and intimate relationship. All replies gracefully accepted and cordially answered. Darron CAMPBELL, 39234, Box 900, Jefferson City, MO 65102

I'm starved for some good clean conversation even if it has to be via the mail. John Moran, 159-170, Box 511, Columbus, OH 43216

Calendar

weekly events

sunday

Boston, MA — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) drop-in center for youth 22 and under from 3:30-5pm at Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill). Info: 497-8282. Please send all BAGLY mail to: GCN, Box 10GY.

Boston, MA — Black and White Men Together of Boston meets at 2pm the second Sunday of the month at 57 E. Springfield St. (So. End). Info: Richard 247-3043 or Tom 536-3392.

Cambridge, MA — Overeaters Anonymous, lesbian meeting. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave. Sun eves 7:30 pm, DOB office.

Framingham, MA — Tricounty Assoc. (Framingham, Milford, Franklin area). Social and support group for gay and lesbian community: 1st Sun. Info: 378-4323 or 473-3529.

Boston, MA — "Musically speaking," women's music, ideas, announcements. WMBR, 88.1 FM. 1-3pm.

Boston, MA — Gay and Lesbian Physicians of New England. Second Sundays. 2pm. Info: (617) 482-6874 or 247-5485.

Keene, NH — Potlucks and other fun get-togethers for lesbians. First Suns. (2pm) and third Tues or Wed (6pm). Info: Keene Klon-dykes. Box 261. Gilsum NH 03448.

Concord, NH — Concord Area gay Youth. support group for youth 16-22. rap session and social time. Carpools & counseling available. Info: Scott or Joe 224-6931.

Acton, MA — Central Middlesex Social Club meets at 7:30pm. Info: Carlton 486-8177. All are invited.

Orono, ME — Wilde/Stein Club. Social/support group for lesbians and gay men. Informal, friendly and open meetings. Peabody Lounge, 3rd fl. Memorial Union, UMO. 7pm.

Orleans, MA — Shoreline, a social group alternative to the bars on Cape Cod, meets second Sundays. Info: Box 1614. Orleans, MA 02653.

Northern VUNH League of Geys (LOGS) meets third Sun. Info: (802) 626-3618 or write: Box 703, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Central VT — Central Vermont Gay Men (CVGM) meets first Sun. of the month for socializing, business and a meal. Info: Box 42, Barre. 05641.

Boston, MA — Boston's Other Voice. (WROR, FM 98.5) 11:30pm.

Boston, MA — "Sharing voices, sharing symbols, sharing visions," a monthly potluck supper and open reading for all women who write. First Sundays. Cauldron Experimental Theater, 22 Randolph St. (near Dover T stop, off Harrison Ave.) 7 pm. (Meet at 8:45 at Dover T stop for a safe walk.) \$1 donation. Info: 542-8575.

Boston, MA — Merrymount Music Society. Informal meetings and concerts for gay and lesbian musicians and music lovers. Info: 266-9423.

monday

Portsmouth, NH — Seacoast Gay Men. 7pm. Info: P.O. Box 1394, Portsmouth 03801.

Nashua, NH — Nashua Area Gays meet 8pm. Info: Tony 888-7933, or write: Nashua Area Gays. Box 3472. Nashua 03061

tuesday

Brettleboro, VT — Southern Vermont Lesbian and Gay Men's Coalition meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Common Ground Restaurant. 25 Elliot St. 7:30pm.

Cambridge, MA — Daughters of Bilitis. Discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. (Harv. Sq.) 8pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Info: 661-3633.

Pittsfield, MA — Berkshire County Gay Coalition meets 2nd and 4th Tues. Info: (413) 442-7772.

Hartford, CT — Greater Hartford Lesbian and Gay Task Force meets at Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 7pm (First Tues.) Info: 249-7691.

Manchester, NH — Manchester Men's Group, weekly support group for gay and bisexual men, meets Tuesdays at 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. Info: Joe (603) 224-6931.

New London, CT — New London Gay Men's Forum, support group for gay and bisexual men. Info: 447-0155 (Noon to 7pm).

Portland, ME — Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at First Parish, Unitarian. 425 Congress St. 8 pm. Open to all.

wednesday

Boston, MA — Fathers in Transition, a group of gay/bi fathers meets Weds. for friendship and support. Info: Gay Fathers, c/o GCN Box 6, 22 Bromfield St. Boston 02108, or call Exodus Ctr 266-0612.

Boston, MA — Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY). New persona! meeting 6:30pm; general meeting and group discussion 7-9pm. For youth 22 and under. Evangelist Church, 35 Bowdoin St. (Beacon Hill) Info: 497-8282

Boston, MA — Boston Gay Men's Chorus meets every Wed from 7-10pm at the YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. (So. End). Info: 625-3247.

Boston, MA — Walk-in VD screening and treatment for and by gay men. 6:30-8pm. Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St. (near Auditorium stop). 267-7573.

Boston, MA — Lunchtime for lesbians. Isolated during the workday downtown? Interested in a lunchtime hangout/discussion group? Come to 80 Boylston St. Rm 855 (corner Boylston and Tremont). Noon. Info: 542-5188.

Boston, MA — Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA) meeting. 7:30-9:30pm. New members welcome. Help make the media more responsive to our needs. Info: 542-5679.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian "coming out" group. new weekly open rap group, is now meeting at Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. (Central Sq.) 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807

Cambridge, MA — Daughters of Bilitis. 35+ women's discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. Second Wed. and last Fri. of each month.

Hyannis, MA — Lesbian Support Group meets first Wed. of every month. 7:30pm. New members welcome. Orientation, social meetings. Warren Women's Center, 298 Main St. Info: 771-6739.

Nashua, NH — Greater Nashua Area of NH Lambda sponsors speakers and/or raps on the second Wed and 4th Thurs. of each month. 7pm. Business meetings on first Sats. 5pm. Info: (603) 889-1416

Bridgewater, MA — South Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance meets Weds. Info: 584-4997.

Hartford, CT — Lesbian AA meeting. Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 8pm. Info: (203) 232-9737 or 742-8203.

Providence, RI — Transvestite/transsexual meetings. 8pm. Info: 272-9247

Hempden County, MA — Social/Support Group for Lesbians. 8pm. Info: Debbie 532-5878 or Julie 532-4959

thursday

Boston, MA — Boston Area Lesbian and Gay History Project. 7:30pm. Info: 424-1993.

Somerville, MA — TV/TS Peer Support Group. Gender Clinic. Info: Martha 866-8280.

Northampton, MA — Pioneer Valley Gay People's Alliance now forming. First and Third Thursdays. Info: (413) 586-5979.

Nashua, NH — Greater Nashua Area Chapter of New Hampshire Lambda sponsors speaker &/or raps on the 2nd Wed. and the 4th Thurs. at 7pm. Business meetings on the 1st Sat. at 5pm. Info: (603) 883-9228.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian Liberation, an open discussion group. 8-10pm. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian Mothers, a new support group for women dealing with the issues of being a lesbian mother. Women's Center, 48 Pleasant St. 8-10 pm. Info: 354-8807 (Diene or Sandy).

Cambridge, MA — Lesbians with children. Support group. 8-10pm. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

New London, CT — Lesbian and Gay community at Connecticut College weekly meeting. Discussion, planning and outreach 9pm. Fanning Hall Rm 412. Info: 442-7458.

friday

BOSTON, MA — GAY COMMUNITY NEWS (THAT'S US!) ALWAYS NEEDS HELP SENDING OUT THE PAPER ON FRIDAY EVES. COME BY FOR A FEW HOURS TO OUR NEW SPACE AT 167 TREMONT (ON THE COMMON, NEAR BOYLSTON T STOP) ANYTIME AFTER 6 AND LEND A HAND. REFRESHMENTS AND GOOD TIMES! EVERY BODY WELL COME! INFO: 426-4469. THANKS!

Hartford, CT — Your Turf, a weekly drop-in center for lesbian and gay teenagers. 7-9pm at the Hill Center, 350 Farmington Ave. (upstairs). Sponsored by the Coalition of Sexual Minorities

Pittsfield, MA — Weekly meetings of Lesbians United. Info: Women's Services center, 499-2425

Concord, NH — Concord's Men's Group meets Fridays at 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. 67 Thorndike St. Info: Joe 224-6931.

Providence, RI — Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth meets every Sat. from 1-5pm for youth 14-21 years of age. Info: MCC 272-9247 or Gay Help Line 751-3322 (eves).

Cambridge, MA — Amazon Lesbian Al-Anon. Mt. Auburn Hosp. (Living room, Clark Bldg.) 8-9:30pm. Newcomers meeting from 7:30-8pm on the last Friday only.

coming events

nov 7 sun

Salem, MA — North Shore Lesbian and Gay Alliance. Fourth Anniversary Party, at the historic Daniels House, 1 Daniels St. 7-10pm. All welcome. Cash bar. Members \$1; non-members \$3.

8 mon

Cambridge, MA — Charlie Murphy, gay singer/songwriter from Seattle, and cellist/vocalist Jamie Sieber will perform at 9pm at Ryle's, inman Sq. Info: 547-5704.

9 tues

Boston, MA — Mobilization for Survival is sponsoring a forum on "The Rise of Racism and the KKK," and Klanwatch's new documentary "The Klan: A Legacy of Hate" will be shown. 7:30pm. \$2 donation. Paulist Center, 5 Park St. Info and childcare reservations: 354-0008.

Salem, MA — North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance presents a "Gay Town Meeting," a general membership discussion and planning event. Old Town Hall. 7pm.

11 thurs

Boston, MA — GCN proofreading. Call 426-4469 if you'd like to help out. Thursday afternoons and evenings are the times we need people most. See next week's news this week!

Boston, MA — Triangle Theater Company, Boston's gay theater, presents "Boy Meets Boy," by Billy Soliy and Donald Ward. Tonight and tomorrow night at 8. YWCA Studio Theater, 140 Clarendon St. (next to Hancock Tower), Copley Sq. Tickets \$6. Info: 482-0897.

Boston, MA — Jewish Lesbian Writers' Group forming, supportive of any style of writing, looking at combined identities as Jews, lesbians and writers. Info: 547-2874. Keep trying.

12 fri

Boston, MA — GCN VOLUNTEER NIGHT! Come help send out the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments and good times. Come anytime after 6 to our new space at 167 Tremont St. (near Boylston T stop). Call 426-4469 from phones nearby on street if downstairs door is closed when you arrive.

Boston, MA — Fenway Community Health Center is sponsoring a community forum on the rising incidence of Kaposi's Sarcoma, Pneumocystis, and other diseases known as AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). Nov. 5 and Nov. 12 7-8:30 pm. 16 Hylleland St. (off Mees Ave. near Boylston St. Auditorium T stop) FREE!

New Haven, CT — Benefit dance for Gay Community News and the Body Politic. Calhoun College, corner of Elm and College Sts (Yale Campus), 9pm-1am. \$3.50 donation. Info: 436-4527 (weekday eves).

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian and Gay Folk-dancing meets at Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 7:30pm. Beginners especially welcome. Info: 661-7223.

Boston, MA — Boston Lesbian and Gay Community Recognition Evening honoring John Ward, Susan Rosen, Boston chapter of National Organization for Women, Boston Gay Men's Chorus, and Buddies. 8:30pm YWCA Auditorium, Clarendon St (Copley Sq). Tickets \$10. Reservations: 247-3910, or write: P.O. Box 65, Beck Bay Annex, Boston 02117.

Boston, MA — Cauldron Experimental Theater presents "The Calling: A Woman's Rite of Passage." 22 Randolph St. (near Dover T stop, off Harrison Ave.) Tonight and tomorrow night at 8:30pm. \$5 donation. Info: 542-8575.

Boston, MA — Chiltern Mt. Club. Pre-ski season potluck supper. Info: John 275-1336 or 864-0823, or Josh 728-8653 (4-5pm only).

Boston, MA — "Boy Meets Boy." See 11 thurs above.

13 sat

Sharon, MA — Am Tikve will attend a concert of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. Ticket info and carpools: 964-0244.

Boston, MA — Betsy Rose and Bright Morning Star performing in a concert for peace and justice sponsored by Mobilization for Survival. B.U. Morse Aud., 602 Comm Ave. 8pm. Info: 354-0008, 661-1580 or 876-5310. Interpreted for the hearing impaired, wheelchair accessible.

Boston, MA — Triangle Theater Co. presents "Boy Meets Boy" at 6pm and 9pm. YWCA Studio Theater, 140 Clarendon St (Copley Sq). Info: 482-0897.

Boston, MA — "The Calling: A Woman's Rite of Passage." See 12 fri above.

14 sun

Boston, MA — Wallflower Collective presents "Journs" to benefit Mujeres Latinas de Dorchester en Accion. Strand Theater. Uphams Corner (Dorchester). 3pm. Tickets \$7. Childcare by reservation: 825-1666.

The deadline for Calendar items is Monday at noon for the following issue.....